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Japan

Emperor Hirohito Dies; Son Assumes Throne

OW0601225389 Tokyo KYODO in English 2247 GMT
6 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Emperor Hirohito died Saturday at the age of 87, the Imperial Household Agency said.

Crown Prince Akihito, 55, automatically became emperor on his father's death.

Obituary of Emperor Hirohito

OW0701015989 Tokyo KYODO in English 0004 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Japan's longest and most dramatic imperial era has ended with the death of Emperor Hirohito at the age of 87.

The life of the emperor, who was born of a line said to stretch back into the mists of ancient folklore, often belied the official era title of "Showa" (Enlightenment and Harmony).

Instead, it was marked in the early years by aggressive colonial expansion and war leading to Japan's virtual destruction and occupation by a foreign power for the first time ever.

The later years were equally as dramatic, as a nation ruined by war rebuilt itself, embarking on a soaring rise to prosperity and becoming a world economic power that excelled the traditional trading nations of the West.

The changes in the emperor's own status were equally dramatic.

To millions of prewar Japanese he was a direct descendant of the Shinto Sun Goddess Amaterasu Omikami (Great Divinity Illuminating Heaven), a living god himself before whom all had to bow their heads.

To World War II allied troops fighting in the Pacific, however, he was the supreme war criminal in whose name millions of Japanese fought fanatically to the bitter atomic end.

But in the postwar era he emerged as a shy grandfatherly figure, something of a feudal anachronism in a computerized advanced industrial state.

In fact, more than an imperial era has ended.

Emperor Hirohito was the world's longest-serving monarch in a century that has seen the disappearance of most thrones.

He was the last of the World War II leaders to die.

He was also the most important final link with Japan's feudal past, for, like the country itself, the Chrysanthemum Throne will never be the same again.

He was born on April 29, 1901, the eldest son of Emperor Taisho and Empress Teimei.

As was traditional then in the imperial family he was raised virtually apart from his parents. He received part of his schooling at the Gakushuin (the former peers' school) and was formally installed as crown prince on November 3, 1916 at the age of 15. In fact he had automatically become crown prince in 1912 on the death of his grandfather, Emperor Meiji.

He enjoyed one brief period of comparative freedom from the tradition-laden narrow confines of the Chrysanthemum Throne when he embarked on a six-month tour of Europe in 1921, the first Japanese heir apparent ever to travel abroad.

Emperor Hirohito later recalled this period as being one of the happiest in his life. For the first time he was able to freely read a newspaper rather than the carefully chosen extracts prepared by imperial court officials, for example.

While staying with the British royal family in Buckingham Palace, London, he was reputedly befriended by Prince Edward, the popular young prince of Wales, who was six years his senior. As King Edward VIII he was later to abdicate.

But in those happier days the young Japanese prince was pleasantly surprised at the comparatively free-and-easy atmosphere prevailing at Buckingham Palace, where Prince Edward's father, King George V, shocked the protocol-conscious visitor by popping into his bedroom one morning half-dressed and displaying his suspenders.

Alas, it was to be many years before the crown prince, soon to become emperor, would again be able to enjoy anything approaching this easy informality.

He became prince regent in November 1921 in order to perform imperial duties on behalf of his ailing father, and succeeded to the throne on December 25, 1926, on his father's death.

Trained from early childhood not to express opinions directly, the new emperor found himself facing many difficulties as the nation's military leaders embarked on a series of overseas adventures that led to war with the United States and its allies following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Emperor Hirohito spoke very little about his life, personal ideology or the earthshaking events in which he was a central figure—much to the frustration of a whole generation of postwar historians.

They have long argued over his role in the Japanese military expansionism in the 1930s and 1940s, with opinions ranging from holding him entirely responsible as the arch war criminal to excusing him on the grounds that he was trapped by the traditions of the office he held.

At least two attempts were made to assassinate him. On December 27, 1923, the then Prince Regent Hirohito was on his way to open the new Diet (parliament) session when a single shot was fired into the automobile in which he was traveling at the Toranomon intersection in Tokyo.

Just over eight years later, on January 8, 1932, the emperor was returning from a military review when a hand grenade was thrown at his procession near the Sakuradamon Gate of the Imperial Palace. It caused only minor damage to one of the carriages in the procession.

In both cases, the suspected perpetrators were executed after secret trials.

He was the first reigning emperor to go abroad, visiting Europe in 1971 and the United States in 1975.

Although the European visit was somewhat marred by demonstrations, his trip to the United States appeared to be a success. It included a call at Disneyland and he proudly displayed one of the souvenirs he brought home—a Mickey Mouse wristwatch.

Prior to those historic visits, the emperor had met a number of foreign journalists and expressed his regret for what happened in the war.

Later, he told a group of Japanese editors that he had such a strong belief in parliamentary democracy—a principle he had learned firsthand on his London visit in 1921—that he felt unable to intervene to prevent war if that was parliament's choice.

His obliquely phrased warnings, open to many different constructions, were ignored by the country's military leadership intent on promoting Japan's "greatness."

Only in August 1945, with two of the nation's cities obliterated by atomic bombs, did Emperor Hirohito finally act in a decisive way to "bring an end to the suffering" of his loyal subjects.

The awed Japanese public for the first time heard the voice of their emperor on August 15 of that year when he tremulously read out the imperial rescript announcing surrender.

His voice was recorded beforehand and broadcast at noon to the nation, despite a desperate last-minute coup attempt by disaffected imperial army units.

He followed this up on January 1, 1946, with another nationwide broadcast repudiating the entire concept of the emperor as a divine being.

And with that he settled down to a new role at the head of a democratic, peace-loving state.

He seemed perfectly happy with his new role as a symbolic figure. The postwar constitution declared: "The emperor shall be the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people, deriving his position from the will of the people with whom resides sovereign power."

Immediately after the war, there were strong allied demands that he be tried, and, if found guilty of being a war criminal, executed.

The American Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who headed the occupation forces, opposed this, declaring that the continuance of the emperor was vital in order to keep the Japanese nation pacified.

There were also demands that at least Emperor Hirohito should abdicate to accept responsibility for the war.

This was certainly considered by the emperor himself.

He visited Gen. MacArthur at the U.S. Embassy used then as the general's residence to state clearly his entire responsibility.

The meeting lasted 30 minutes. Accounts of it say that MacArthur, who previously had been rather cool toward the emperor, was favorably impressed and later told close aides he had undoubtedly met the "first gentleman of Japan."

The photograph of the two men released after the meeting surprised and impressed the Japanese nation. It showed the frail-looking emperor attired in formal dress standing tensely beside the much taller American general, informally dressed and without a tie.

It marked a turning point in the Showa Era.

From then on, various measures were taken to bring the emperor closer to the people.

In February 1946 he visited Kanagawa Prefecture, immediately to the south of Tokyo, and over the next eight years paid visits to almost all parts of the country.

Perhaps due to his previous isolation, the emperor at first seemed rather nervous of these encounters. It was said that his favorite, and perhaps only, expression in conversation with the Japanese people he met was "ah so" (is that so?).

The relaxations in life-style proceeded slowly, however.

He first saw the famous Ginza shopping center, only a few hundred meters from his moated palace, in 1961 when he passed through the area on the way to open Japan's first international trade fair.

His first visit to a department store had occurred only four years earlier.

He regularly attended the opening ceremony of a national athletic meet, held each autumn in different parts of the country, and also a tree-planting ceremony during arbor week and ceremonial rice harvesting each autumn.

A keen sports spectator, the emperor went to see several baseball games at Tokyo's Korakuen Stadium, and visited the Kokugikan sumo arena in the capital to watch sumo tournaments.

He was scheduled to visit Kokugikan to see part of the autumn grand sumo tournament on September 18, 1988, but was forced to stay in bed because of a mild fever.

Such appearances were greeted with affectionate enthusiasm by the crowds present.

After the turmoil of the prewar and wartime years, however, he led a relatively simple, quiet life in later years.

After a daily health check and light breakfast he worked conscientiously at his palace office signing various documents presented to him by the government and Imperial Household Agency.

In the afternoon, if there were no official engagements, he devoted his energies to his lifelong interest: marine and plant biology, in which he was an internationally respected expert and the author of a number of books in several specialized fields of study.

The nation saw more of him when he fulfilled his role as host to the many heads of state who visited Japan in the postwar era.

This invariably included a reception at the palace and a state banquet at which the emperor always made a speech.

The public gained a fascinating glimpse of life behind the "Chrysanthemum curtain" when television cameras were allowed into the palace in the mid-1970s of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. [sentence as received]

Viewers saw the emperor and empress chatting happily as they escorted their British visitors on a relaxed tour of the inner palace's ornamental gardens and fish ponds.

Occasional official photographs also provided a glimpse of the private life of the emperor, especially of him playing with his grandchildren.

He married Princess Nagako, the daughter of Prince Kuni, on January 26, 1924, and the empress was always credited with playing a strong supportive role especially during the postwar democratization of the imperial family.

The marriage produced two sons and five daughters (only three of them still living).

The spirit of change in Japan's imperial family as it adjusts to the modern era, tentatively begun with Emperor Hirohito, is expected to grow stronger with the accession to the throne of his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

The Japanese public has already had a taste of this.

New Emperor Akihito, for example, became the first heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne to marry a commoner—Michiko Shoda, daughter of a wealthy flour miller, who he wooed on the tennis court, providing a storybook romance and wedding that captivated the entire nation.

In another break with tradition, the royal couple had their children living with them, rather than raised separately by court officials.

New Emperor Akihito, who was separated from his father at the age of 3, vowed on his marriage he would be a full-time father to make up for the lack of his own father's companionship, which had been denied him.

At a press conference once, he spoke about his perceptions of life as emperor.

The emperor's role can be likened to that of a robot's function, performing only those duties that tradition and Japan's postwar peace Constitution require, he said.

This may have been his father's position. But as he once noted, even an emperor cannot remain a robot forever.

War Responsibility Examined

OW0701063289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT
7 Jan 89

["(News Analysis): "Emperor's Death Unsettles Controversy Over War Responsibility" by Fumio Yamada"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Was Emperor Hirohito responsible for 1941-45 Pacific War? His death leaves that question unanswered for a majority of the Japanese people.

As the Japanese grieve his death, a series of traditional ceremonies has started for the succession to the throne. A sacred sword, symbolizing the legitimacy and authority of the emperor, plus imperial and state seals were handed to his successor, Emperor Akihito, upon his death.

A formal coronation, the date of which has not yet been set, will be the first to be held under the postwar Constitution. Centuries-old imperial rituals will be strictly followed, however, continuity is an important facet of the emperor system and of the people's respect and affection for the imperial family.

Traditionally, the role of Japan's emperor was that of chief priest of Shinto—the nation's indigenous religion—emphasizing agricultural animistic rites, an image contrasts sharply with today's computerized industrial society.

Japan's imperial institution has shown a remarkable capability for survival, though it transformed when the emperor renounced his divinity after Japan's defeat in World War II in 1945 and the subsequent allied occupation of the country.

During his 62-year reign, called the Showa (Enlightenment and Harmony) Era, 32 prime ministers headed 50 cabinets. Seven prime ministers held power during the years of Asian conflict that began in 1937.

In the early years of Emperor Hirohito's reign, Japanese military expansionism, which emerged following colonial advances by Western powers, led to Japan becoming isolated in the international community.

Ultrationalists and militarists took advantage of traditional position of authority of the emperor to use him as a figurehead, stressing his reputed lineage as a direct descendant of the sun goddess. This image of the "divine" emperor was used by some quarters to promote a Japanese version of fascism, historians say.

In accordance with this myth, the people were required to show absolute loyalty to the emperor and be prepared to sacrifice even their lives for a monarch portrayed as a "living god."

Under the old Meiji Constitution, the emperor was the sovereign and commander in chief of the armed forces. Political and military leaders benefited from the protection afforded by the mystic prestige of the emperor.

The emperor himself had no power to do anything more than merely ratify a consensus already reached by the cabinet or the armed forces. In other words, he held titular power, with real authority invested in the cabinet and the chiefs of the armed forces.

This contradiction is at the root of the postwar controversy about the emperor's war responsibility and the question that arose at the end of the war of whether the emperor system should be abolished or not.

Since the war, Japan has transformed itself from a war-devastated nation into the world's second-largest economic power. The postwar Constitution, which renounces war and defines the emperor as "the symbol of the state and the unity of the people," contributed to Japan's economic recovery, historians say.

A policy adopted by successive postwar cabinets—economic restoration with minimum armament—has brought prosperity to Japan on a par with that of the United States, the victor in World War II.

Some Japanese historians say Emperor Hirohito, far from being the war monger portrayed by Western nations and Japan's Asian neighbors during the years of conflict, actually longed for peace. Contrary to his true wishes, they say, he was pictured as a symbol of Japanese colonial rule in Korea and his image was also smeared with blood in China and Southeast Asian countries as Japanese soldiers committed atrocities in his name.

The emperor was credited with making the final decision to end the war in August 1945 by accepting the Potsdam Declaration. His decision broke a deadlock of several months in the cabinet, which was split between die-hard militarists seeking to fight on and other leaders convinced that Japan had lost the war.

The decision was one of three by which Emperor Hirohito apparently overstepped his function, historians say. The other two were the resignation of Prime Minister Giichi Tanaka in July 1929—allegedly prompted by criticism from the emperor—and his ordering the suppression of an uprising by a group of dissident soldiers on February 26, 1936.

The emperor called on Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander of allied occupation forces, on September 27, 1945, and reportedly said he had submitted himself to the judgment of the allied powers "as the one to bear sole responsibility for every political and military decision made and action taken by my people in the conduct of the war."

In his memoirs later, the U.S. general wrote that he had been deeply moved by the emperor's words. "In that instant, I knew that I faced the first gentleman of Japan in his own right," he said.

Illness had forced him to cancel what would have been his first visit to Okinawa Prefecture scheduled for late October in 1987. He had expressed a strong wish to visit the island prefecture to pray for the souls of the war dead and convey to the Okinawan people his appreciation of their years of hardship.

Okinawa was the scene of bloody fighting between Japanese and allied forces near the end of the war, the only Japanese soil on which a battle took place. More than 200,000 Japanese, both soldiers and noncombatants, were killed. Okinawa remained under U.S. military rule until its return to Japan in 1972.

These events accounted for a deep-rooted antipathy against the emperor and the imperial institution among Okinawans. Okinawa was the only one of Japan's prefectures which the emperor did not visit during the postwar period.

In a legal sense, the theory that Emperor Hirohito was not responsible for the war seems to be valid.

People with bitter memories—war survivors and kin of the war dead—remained skeptical, however, and felt that with a total of 3.1 million Japanese war dead, the emperor should be held morally responsible for the war.

Emperor Hirohito was the last of the World War II leaders to die. His death also removes one of the keys to any attempt by the Japanese people to answer the question of the nation's responsibility for the war, especially toward other Asian peoples. The Japanese might now finally put the tragedies of the dark past behind them by accepting the fact of their emperor's death, some historians say.

Such an attitude would be in marked contrast to that adopted by German people. The Germans eradicated Nazism, which had driven them to begin the war in Europe, while the Japanese have retained a link with the past by keeping, though in a changed form, the imperial institution which was used as a tool by the prewar militarists.

Although the issue of Kimigayo (the national anthem) and the rising sun (the national flag) being rooted in the imperial institution will remain controversial in the future, leftists and liberals are likely to tone down their opposition now that Emperor Hirohito—the man they said was responsible for the war—has gone.

By contrast, there are fears that extreme nationalism will gain strength in Japan, fanned by frustration stemming from external pressures on Japan to rectify the trade imbalance and the "Japan bashing" phenomenon.

In that sense, the emperor system symbolizing the unity and continuity of the Japanese people is, essentially, inclined to be linked to nationalism.

China warned in 1987 about a possible resurgence of Japanese militarism, referring to such controversial matters as official visits by the prime minister to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, dedicated to the Japanese war dead including Class-A war criminals, and the abolition of the 1 percent of GNP ceiling on defense spending.

Since the end of the war, members of the imperial family have made more than 90 goodwill visits to various countries. The trips included a 1971 European tour and a 1975 U.S. visit by Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako. However, their overseas trips did not include visits to South Korea or China.

Historians say the time has come for the Japanese to have a new emperor truly symbolic of a peaceful nation. The role of the emperor should not be abused for political purposes, but should be confined to fostering closer contact with the people as a symbol of the nation's culture and unity, they said.

New Emperor, Family Profiled

OW0701002389 Tokyo KYODO in English 2335 GMT
6 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—New Emperor Akihito had a long wait before ascending the throne. He is now 55. His late father was only 25 when he ascended the throne.

He was born on December 23, 1933, the first son of the late Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako. The Japanese people had welcomed his birth with great joy as his parents had three daughters but no son at that time.

Only male members of the imperial family are eligible to occupy the Chrysanthemum Throne, according to the Imperial House Law.

Emperor Akihito is a sportsman, an avid reader, a biologist and also an excellent diplomat.

As is well known, a love of tennis helped him find his lifetime partner, new Empress Michiko. She was Miss Michiko Shoda, a commoner, when they first met in the summer of 1957. He played at a tennis club in Karuizawa, a holiday resort northwest of Tokyo, in a mixed doubles match against her. They married in April 1959.

The emperor is an authority on the goby (a type of small fish), on which he has produced 24 academic articles.

His first tour abroad was in 1953 when he visited Britain. He has been abroad almost every year since then, an imperial diplomat promoting friendship between Japan and foreign countries.

Emperor Akihito was separated from his parents at the age of 3 as was traditional in those days. He entered the Gakushuin (the former peers school) in April 1940, one year before the outbreak of the Pacific war.

He stayed away from the imperial palace in Tokyo between May 1944 and November 1945 because of U.S. air raids on Japanese urban areas.

The emperor stayed at a hotel in a hot spring resort in Nikko some 140 kilometers north of Tokyo, and it was there he listened to a radio broadcast in which his father told the Japanese people that the war was over. He was a sixth-grade student and was 12 years old at that time.

He returned to Tokyo from the wartime evacuation on November 7, 1945.

He later said he was surprised at the sight of a wide stretch of ruins around the former Japanese national railways Harajuku Station when he returned to the capital by train from Nikko.

He rejoined his parents for four days at the Imperial Palace and then moved again to his own residence at the Akasaka detached palace.

In April 1946 he advanced to Gakushuin junior high school at Koganei in the outskirts of Tokyo. In the autumn of 1946 Mrs. Elizabeth Vining was invited from the United States to teach him English. She said in her memoirs that Emperor Hirohito had suggested that his son be provided with a new sense of the values of democracy by an American.

As a high school student he was good at swimming and horse-riding. He was captain of the school's equestrian club and won a riding competition.

He entered the faculty of politics of Gakushuin university in 1952, the year that Japan regained independence after long years under foreign military occupation.

He underwent a traditional coming-of-age ceremony on November 10, 1952, when he was 18.

In March 1953 he left by sea for his first overseas tour, also the first such trip by a member of the imperial family after the war, which took him to 14 countries. In London he represented his father at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and visited other European countries and the United States during the six-month tour.

He did not gain the required credits to obtain a degree because of his long tour abroad in 1953. He quit the regular course, but continued to attend lectures on a limited number of subjects at the university till March 1956.

He was aged 25 when he married the new Empress Michiko in 1959.

The general populace approved the young prince's precedent-breaking love marriage. His graceful bride charmed the public and her hairstyle at that time became extremely popular among young women.

About a year after their first meeting, the Imperial Household Agency had sounded out Michiko's parents about her marriage to the crown prince, and they at first politely declined the offer. Her father, Hidesaburo Shoda, was then president of Nisshin Flour Milling Company in Tokyo. His brother, Kenjiro Shoda, a mathematician and former president of Osaka University, was awarded a culture medal in 1969.

The palace announced the engagement of then Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko on November 27, 1958.

They married in a traditional, solemn, Shinto ceremony at the palace on April 10, 1959. The only foreign guest at the wedding ceremony was Mrs. Vining, his former English instructor.

Their 50-minute ride in a horse-drawn carriage from the palace to their provisional residence was televised live and half a million people lined the route to hail the new imperial couple.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko have two sons and a daughter—new Crown Prince Naruhito (better known as Prince Hiro), Prince Aya and Princess Nori.

The emperor usually spends 30 days a year visiting provincial Japan to attend various sports events, youth gatherings, Red Cross meetings or Boy Scout jamborees.

He and Empress Michiko have made 22 official overseas visits to 42 countries, mostly on behalf of the late emperor Hirohito, including three communist countries, Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria.

The new emperor regularly receives lectures from invited scholars, politicians and government officials at his residence on such subjects as energy, food problems, cultural matters, environmental pollution, biology, foreign affairs and history. He also takes lessons in foreign languages.

The emperor and empress play tennis on the palace tennis court whenever they find time to spare and sometimes their children join them.

The emperor, in a reference to his own separation from his parents as a small child, once said he wanted his children to live in the same house as him. A court chamberlain says, however, the emperor and empress are busy attending to official duties, so they are seldom able to relax together with all their children.

Empress Michiko Profiled

OW0701043889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—New Empress Michiko was the first commoner ever to marry to an heir to the throne in the history of Japan's centuries-old imperial family.

The empress is 54 years old.

She was born in Tokyo as the eldest daughter of Hidesaburo Shoda, a flour mill operator, on October 20, 1934. Her father is now honorary chairman of Nisshin Flour Milling Co. of Tokyo, the No. 1 flour milling firm of Japan.

It was in the summer of 1957 that she first encountered the new Emperor Akihito. Empress Michiko joined in a mixed doubles tennis match in which Emperor Akihito, then the crown prince, was on the opposing side, at a grass court in the summer resort of Karuizawa some 150 kilometers northwest of Tokyo.

Empress Michiko and Emperor Akihito married in a traditional, solemn, Shinto ceremony on April 10, 1959.

Her school friends had nicknamed her "Michie," a name used by the media after her engagement. Her neat, elegant appearance on TV impressed the Japanese people deeply, producing tremendous popularity for her and the imperial family just as Britain's Princess Diana was to do.

The "Michie" boom has lasted a long time.

Empress Michiko entered the Futaba primary school in Tokyo in 1941, the year of the outbreak of the Pacific war.

As the war intensified, she stayed away from Tokyo to spend her school days in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture, Tatebayashi, Gunma Prefecture and Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture.

She was at her father's native home in Tatebayashi when Japan surrendered to the allied powers in August 1945.

She returned to Tokyo in January 1947. But she and her family could not live in their home in Tokyo as it had been commandeered by the U.S. Armed Forces.

Empress Michiko studied foreign literature at the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo between April 1953 and March 1957 after graduating from the Roman Catholic university's junior high and senior high schools.

She discussed John Galsworthy's "The Forsyte Saga" in her graduation thesis.

Her classmates say the new empress was bright and amusing. She did well at school and was loved by everyone, they recall. She was good at sports, too, particularly tennis. She was once a junior tennis champion of the Kanto region.

Empress Michiko underwent a 75-day intensive course of lectures on imperial customs and ceremonies, law, "Tanka" poetry and foreign languages before the marriage.

The then chief justice, Kotaro Tanaka, gave her lectures on the Constitution.

After the marriage ceremony, the emperor and empress (then the crown prince and princess) took a carriage ride through the streets of Tokyo.

The cavalcade was greeted by over 530,000 wellwishers along the route and was televised live. The number of TV sets in Japanese homes doubled to top the 2 million mark in that year.

She gave birth to their eldest son, Prince Hiro or new Crown Prince Naruhito, on February 23, 1960, second son Prince Aya on November 30, 1965, and their only daughter Princess Nori on April 18, 1969.

The emperor and empress defied imperial tradition and raised their children themselves. Empress Michiko prepared meals for the children, gave them baths and took them out for walks unless she was busy performing official duties.

Empress Michiko visited Belgium to attend a world meeting of University of the Sacred Heart alumni in September 1958 when she was still single.

After the marriage, she accompanied Emperor Akihito on all his overseas tours.

The couple visited the United States, Iran, Ethiopia, India and Nepal in 1960, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines in 1962, Mexico and Thailand in 1964 and Peru, Argentina and Brazil in 1967.

They went to Malaysia and Singapore in 1970, Afghanistan in 1974, Australia, New Zealand and Spain in 1973, Nepal in 1975, Jordan, Yugoslavia and Britain in 1976, Brazil and Paraguay in 1978 and Romania and Bulgaria in 1979.

The couple also visited Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Britain in 1981, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya in 1983, Senegal and Zaire in 1984 and Spain, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland in 1985 and again the U.S. in 1987.

The empress has been the honorary president of the Japanese Red Cross Society since April 1960.

Her interests include playing the harp, tennis and reading.

Crown Prince Naruhito Profiled

OW0701044489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0043 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—New Crown Prince Naruhito, the eldest son of Emperor Ak'hito, is better known by his previous title of Prince Hiro. He is 28 years old.

The first heir to the throne to study abroad, he took a history course at Merton College of Britain's Oxford University between 1983 and 1985.

His most important preoccupation currently concerns plans for his possible marriage, now under study at the imperial palace.

After returning from two years of study in Britain, the prince said he wants his wife to be modest, humble, and above all not extravagant.

The prince said he was not too concerned about his future bride's height or educational and family background. But it might not be proper for a Japanese princess to be crazy about buying things at Tiffany's, he said.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko have said the choice of a wife will be based on the wishes of their son himself.

Born on February 23, 1960, the new crown prince entered Gakushuin primary school in April 1966.

He proceeded to Gakushuin university to study history in April 1978 and celebrated his coming-of-age in a ceremony in February 1980.

The prince majored in medieval traffic of Japan.

After graduating from the university in March 1982, he entered a postgraduate course there the following month.

He left Japan in June 1983 for Merton College, where the theme of his study was water traffic on the River Thames in the 18th century.

Crown Prince Naruhito visited Australia in 1974, Belgium and Spain in 1976 and Thailand in 1980. He made his first official trip abroad, to Brazil, in October 1982.

While studying in Britain, the prince went to European countries on friendship tours.

He is interested in climbing and music, and is an accomplished performer on the viola.

The prince toured the United States on his way home from Oxford in October 1985.

After returning home, the prince expressed restrained criticism of the tight security measures for imperial family members, saying that Japanese royalty should expand their contacts with the people and that police should not go overboard in protecting them. His younger brother, Prince Aya, agreed with him.

Citing his experience in Britain, the crown prince said he saw many policemen guarding the royal family at Ascot Race Course but they were unobtrusive and often stayed in the background.

The police must not prevent imperial family members from making contacts with the people, he said.

Prince Hiro attended to matters of state for the first time in October, 1987 during Emperor Hirohito's hospitalization.

The prince's father, then Crown Prince Akihito, made an eight-day official visit to the United States, and he signed official documents, and attended ceremonies such as the presentation of papers to newly installed Japanese ambassadors to foreign countries.

Prince Aya Profiled

OW0701044589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Prince Fumihito is the younger son of new Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. He is 23 years old and his title is Prince Aya.

The prince, who is the tallest member of the imperial family at 178 centimeters, ranks second in line to the throne only after his brother Crown Prince Naruhito.

A student at Gakushuin University, the prince underwent a traditional coming-of-age ceremony on his 20th birthday on November 30, 1985.

Prince Aya met reporters for the first time on the eve of the ceremony and said he wanted to learn more about Asian countries.

Studying the Chinese language at the college, he has become interested in things Asian particularly since he visited Thailand in August 1985.

The prince began studying politics at Gakushuin university in April 1984.

He visited New Zealand for two weeks in August 1980 while he was a junior high school student.

Prince Aya is good at tennis and skiing and says he likes the Beatles, singer Dinah Shore, and Patti Page and Charlie Chaplin.

He wishes to get married before he turns 30.

Like his elder brother, Crown Prince Naruhito, he has criticized the excessive protection given to imperial family members by the police. He has never felt himself to be in any danger, he says.

The prince went to Britain in August 1988 to study at Oxford University. But he returned home late last year because of his grandfather's illness.

Princess Sayako Profiled

OW0701044689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0051 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Princess Sayako is the only daughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Her title is Princess Nori and she is 19 years old.

Nicknamed "Saya," the princess was born on April 18, 1969.

She has been a student at Gakushuin junior high school since April 1982 after graduating from Gakushuin kindergarten and primary school.

Princess Nori visited Oxford University in the summer of 1984 while her brother Crown Prince Naruhito was studying there.

Interested in Japanese history, she likes to watch Edo-era costume dramas on TV. She likes playing the piano, calligraphy and horseriding.

New Order of Succession

OW0701051689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0058 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—The following is the new order of succession to the imperial throne:

(1)	Heir to the throne	Crown Prince Naruhito
(2)	Second in line	Prince Aya
(3)	Third in line	Prince Hitachi
(4)	Fourth in line	Prince Mikasa
(5)	Fifth in line	Prince Tomohito of Mikasa
(6)	Sixth in line	Prince Katsura
(7)	Seventh in line	Prince Takamado

Royal Family's New Titles

OW0701054189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0053 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—The following is a list of members of the imperial family with titles amended due to the accession of Emperor Akihito:

(Title)	(Name)	(Relationship to new emperor)	(Date of birth)
Emperor	Akihito	(eldest son of late emperor)	Dec. 23, 1933
Empress	Michiko	(wife)	Oct. 20, 1934
Empress Dowager	Nagako	(mother)	Mar. 6, 1903
Crown Prince	Naruhito	(eldest son)	Feb. 23, 1960
Prince Aya	Fumihito	(younger son)	Nov. 30, 1965
Princess Nori	Sayako	(daughter)	Apr. 18, 1969
Prince Hitachi	Masahito	(younger brother)	Nov. 28, 1935
Princess Hitachi	Hanako	(sister-in-law, Mashito's wife)	July 19, 1940
Princess Chichibu	Setsuko	(aunt, widow of Prince Chichibu, younger brother of late emperor)	Sept. 9, 1909
Princess Takamatsu	Kikuko	(aunt, wife of the late Nobuhito)	Dec. 26, 1911
Prince Mikasa	Takahito	(uncle, younger brother of late emperor)	Dec. 2, 1915
Princess	Yuriko	(aunt, wife of Takahito)	Jun. 4, 1923
Prince Mikasa	Tomohito	(cousin, eldest son (junior) of Takahito)	Jan. 5, 1946
Princess Mikasa	Nobuko	(cousin, wife of Tomohito)	Apr. 9, 1955
Princess	Akiko	(second cousin, eldest daughter of Tomohito)	Dec. 20, 1981
Princess	Yoko	(second cousin, second daughter of Tomohito)	Oct.
Prince Katsura	Yoshihito	(cousin, second son of Takahito)	Feb. 11, 1948
Prince Takamado	Norihito	(cousin, third son of Takahito)	Dec. 29, 1954
Princess Takamado	Hisako	(cousin, wife of Norihito)	Jul. 10, 1953
Princess	Tsuguko	(second cousin, daughter of Norihito)	Mar. 8, 1986
Princess	Noriko	(second cousin, second daughter of Norihito)	July 22, 1988

Takeshita on Emperor's Death

OW0701024589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0223 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—The following is the full text of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's statement issued on the death of Emperor Hirohito on Saturday:

The sad news of the passing of his late majesty the emperor (Hirohito) has left me grief-stricken. Our sincere prayers for his recovery were in vain, and I am at a loss for words.

The sorrow of their majesties the Emperor (Akihito) and Empress (Michiko), her majesty the Empress Dowager (Nagako), their imperial highnesses the princes and princesses, and those who are closely related to the imperial family must be profound.

The late emperor assumed the office of prince regent at the age of 20 and acceded to the throne at the age of 25. Thereafter his reign extended over 62 long years. As we look back over his era of Showa, it has been eventful and turbulent.

It began with the worldwide great depression, and witnessed the calamities of that deplorable war.

This country then strove to reconstruct itself from ruins amid confusion and dire poverty, and regained its full independence, realized unprecedented economic growth, and eventually developed into a nation of international standing.

Throughout these developments, the late emperor ardently wished for world peace and the well-being of the people, and devoted himself to these ideals in his daily life.

He resolutely brought to an end the war that had broken out in spite of his wishes, out of a determination to prevent further suffering of the people, regardless of the consequences to his own person.

His actions, as well as his visits to various parts of the country immediately after the war to comfort the bewildered people living in desolation and inspire them with the courage to work for the rehabilitation of the nation, remain deeply impressed in the hearts of our people.

Our country has since pursued the realization of peace and democracy under the new constitution. It has achieved remarkable progress by virtue of the untiring efforts of our people and has now become an important member of the international community.

I feel most keenly that these achievements have been made possible by the presence of his late majesty as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people.

There are few, if any, who have not been moved by his benevolent heart and impartial, selfless, earnest, and sincere personality. His august virtues will assuredly be told and retold for ages to come and continue to live in the hearts of our people.

His majesty the emperor (Akihito), who has just ascended the throne and is blessed with his late majesty's (Hirohito) purity and clarity of spirit, earnestly wishes for an imperial family that keeps in step with the people.

Earlier, as crown prince, he discharged manifold duties at home and abroad.

I hope that, with his accession to the throne, the bonds of respect and trust that bind the imperial family and the people will become even stronger and more solid and our ties of friendship and goodwill with other nations further deepened.

With heartfelt sorrow, I, together with our people, wish to express my deep sense of loss on the passing of his late majesty.

Statement on 'Heisei' Era

OW0701130989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT
7 Jan 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—The following is the text of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's statement on the selection of the new era name "Heisei":

"The cabinet agreed on an order for the change of the era name, which is due to be promulgated before the end of the day. The new name was determined to accompany the imperial succession in accordance with the provisions of the era name law.

"The new era name is "Heisei." It is derived from passages that appear in the historical records and classical documents (two Chinese classics called Shiki and Shokyo, respectively, in Japanese).

The new name means that peace will prevail both at home and abroad, and in the heavens and on earth. I believe it is the most appropriate name for the era ahead of us.

"Use of this new name will begin January 8, the day following its promulgation, in line with the intent of the era name law, which is that the change of era should be carried out as promptly as practical, and in consideration of the convenience of the people of the nation.

I ask for the understanding and cooperation of all the people in using this new era name.

"The Japanese system of eras has a history of over 1,300 years. The system does not merely serve as a means of numbering years; over the course of its long history it has penetrated deeply into the hearts of the Japanese people and has contributed to promoting a psychological sense of unity.

I sincerely hope that the new era name will be widely accepted by the public, and that it will root itself deeply in the life of the Japanese people.

Political Parties React

OW0701051789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0435 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Major political parties, except for the Japan Communist Party, extended condolences Saturday on the death of Emperor Hirohito.

"The late emperor had been the prop of the people's mind. Achievements he displayed when Japan faced trials from inside and outside were incalculably great," the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said in a statement.

"He visited almost all parts of the country after the end of World War II to encourage the people. His sincerity became a source of power for the people to set themselves to rehabilitate the homeland, unifying their mind, and, as a result, Japan has been able to become prosperous as an unparalleled peaceful nation in the world," it said.

LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe told reporters, "A thousand emotions crowded my mind. The emperor always prayed for world peace and happiness of the people. We must work hard for world peace and development of Japan under the new emperor."

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the largest opposition Japan Socialist Party, expressed her sympathy and said, "The Showa era was full of bitter experiences and violent shocks."

She said that errors made during the time involved great sacrifices in and outside Japan and that would have not been headed.

Doi said she renews her will that her party will make efforts for permanent peace by taking lessons from history.

She visited the imperial palace in the morning to register her condolences.

No. 2 opposition Komeito Chairman Junya Yano said in a statement that the late emperor racked his brains for peace and prosperity of Japan as symbol of the unity of the people and Yano pledged that his party will strive to defend the constitution, world peace and construction of a welfare society.

Saburo Tsukamoto, chairman of the No. 3 opposition Democratic Socialist Party, said he felt as if his heart were breaking and that his party offers deep condolence.

The Japan Communist Party said in a statement, "Emperor Hirohito had the greatest and highest responsibility for the war."

"The emperor system should have been abolished and the government's duty under the constitution is to abide by peaceful and democratic clauses of the constitution."

The JCP, which has been conducting an anti-emperor system campaign since the emperor became bedridden on September 19, called on the people to defend basic principles of the Constitution which stipulate sovereign power resides with the will of the people.

JCP Secretariat Chief Mitsuhiro Kaneko told reporters that his party will abstain from attending plenary sessions at both houses of the Diet in which mourning speeches for the late emperor will be made.

Satsuki Eda, leader of the United Socialist Democratic Party, declared that his party will defend principles of the Constitution, reflecting on the war and hardship after the war.

Diet Official Issue Statements

OW0701033889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0321 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—The Diet mourned the death of Emperor Hirohito Saturday, with the heads of both houses issuing statements of condolence.

Both houses of the parliament are scheduled to convene a special plenary session early next week, respectively, to adopt a resolution of condolence.

As the national flag was hoisted half-staff in the black on the Diet building, House of Representatives Speaker Kenzo Hara issued a statement paying tribute to the late emperor for his great contributions to peace and prosperity of the nation and promotion of friendly relations with other countries.

House of Councillors President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya's statement praised the late monarch for having played, as the symbol of the state, the important role of the pillar of the nation in its postwar reconstruction and in its quest for prosperity and world peace.

Cabinet Ministers Express Grief

OW0701061489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0517 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Japan's cabinet ministers and surviving former prime ministers expressed profound sympathy Saturday on the death of Emperor Hirohito earlier in the day.

Commenting on their personal feelings, all 20 ministers said Hirohito's death from cancer had left them bereft and deeply shocked.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, in Europe on government business, sent a telegram to new Emperor Akihito saying he was profoundly affected by Emperor Hirohito's passing and that he could barely find the words to express his deep feelings.

Other ministers noted the pinnacles of success and depths of tragedy which affected Japan during Emperor Hirohito's long reign and said the emperor always maintained a position and posture which was an inspiration to his people.

"He made a deep effort to contribute to the reconstruction of Japan after the chaos of war," Home Affairs Minister Shigenobu Sakano said, reflecting similar statements by his cabinet peers.

Former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone called Emperor Hirohito a "brave emperor" who determined Japan must surrender and end World War II if it was to regain permanent peace.

Zenko Suzuki, Takeo Fukuda and Kakuei Tanaka, all of whom held Japan's top political post during the late emperor's 62-year-reign, said they were deeply shocked by the emperor's death and express profound condolences on his passing.

Business Leaders Mourn

OW0701061889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Japanese business leaders, in deep mourning at the death of Emperor Hirohito Saturday, hailed his efforts for the nation's postwar reconstruction.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations, said the emperor had shared hardship, sorrow and joy with the Japanese people.

He recalled in particular the emperor's grave decision to bring an end of World War II and his subsequent encouragement to help the country recover.

Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said he felt heartrending grief at the emperor's death. But he said he would not forget the deep affection the emperor held for the Japanese people.

Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, particularly remembered the emperor's tenderness of heart and sympathy for the people's life. He rated highly the emperor's efforts to bring peace and prosperity to Japan today. He said he felt the emperor's death was like losing a pillar in his heart as a Japanese.

Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, said he was deeply impressed by the emperor's continuous concern with the Japanese people's life when he gave lectures regularly on the financial and economic situation in Japan and abroad.

Konosuke Matsushita, adviser at Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., said the emperor's encouragement in the hardest postwar period gave great hope to the people striving for the national reconstruction.

Japanese markets for stocks, securities and commodities were temporarily closed Saturday because of the emperor's passing. They will be open on Monday.

Diplomatic Corps Condoles

OW0801082189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0424 GMT
8 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The leader of the foreign diplomatic corps in Tokyo, Pierre Nelson Coffi, offered heartfelt condolences on Sunday over the death of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, the Foreign Ministry said.

Coffi, who is the ambassador of the Ivory Coast, said, "The diplomatic corps feels profoundly the loss of His Majesty Emperor Hirohito, who has demonstrated steadfast concern in the search for universal friendship."

"His loss is deeply felt by the diplomatic corps, which offers the imperial family and at the same time the people of Japan its sincere condolences," Coffi said in a statement written in French.

Coffi issued the statement on behalf of diplomats from 105 countries who are stationed in Tokyo, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Emperor Hirohito died of cancer at the age of 87 on Saturday, ending his 62 years of reign in war and peace. New Emperor Akihito ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne immediately on the death of his father.

Iranian President Sends Message

LD0901074089 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Monday sent a message of condolences to new Japanese Emperor Akihito on the passing away of his father, Emperor Hirohito.

The message was submitted to the Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry by Iranian Ambassador to Tokyo Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli.

Adeli later signed a memorial book at the Imperial Palace.

Emperor Hirohito died on Saturday after a prolonged illness.

Nagasaki Mayor Reserves Comment

OW0701090689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Nagasaki, Jan. 7 KYODO—Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima, under fire for his statement last December that Emperor Hirohito was responsible for Japan's involvement in World War II, withheld further comment in this regard upon the death of the emperor Saturday.

Motoshima said, "I would like to reserve my comment on that matter today."

In a meeting with reporters at the Nagasaki Municipal Office, Motoshima said the emperor had served for 64 years of a long and difficult period. He said he was grateful for the emperor's efforts to help bring prosperity to Japan as a god-turned "human being" emperor under the new Constitution.

"I would like to pray for the repose of his soul and will go into mourning," he said.

He said he extended his condolences because death is solemn to all people and Emperor Hirohito was the symbol of the nation under the present Constitution.

Funeral Plans Announced

OW0801085789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0737 GMT
8 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The following is the text of a government decision on a state funeral for Emperor Hirohito and on the establishment of a Funeral Committee:

- The cabinet has decided that Taiso-No-Rei [funeral rites] will be held as an act in matters of state on Friday, February 24, 1989, at Shinjuku Gyoen in Tokyo.
- Taiso-No-Rei is to be carried out with the intent of serving as a ceremony in which a wide range of representatives from both Japan and abroad join in bidding a final farewell to his late majesty, who was the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people.
- The Taiso-No-Rei Committee has been established within the cabinet in order to confer on and treat comprehensively and smoothly matters concerning Taiso-No-Rei.

The committee is to consist of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita as chairman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi as vice chairman, and Cabinet Legislation Bureau Director General Osamu Mimura, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Ichiro Ozawa, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara, and Imperial Household Agency Grand Steward Shoichi Fujimori as members.

—The Japanese Government will accept the attendance of representatives of other countries at Taiso-No-Rei, and it will notify foreign governments and major international organs to this effect.

Azcona, Others To Attend Funeral

OW0901061289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Honduras' President Jose Azcona Hoyo will attend the late Emperor Hirohito's state funeral to be held February 24 in Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The Belgian Government informed the Ministry Saturday that King Baudouin I and Queen Fabiola would come to the funeral.

Akihito Makes Statement at Audience Ceremony

OW0901062289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0555 GMT
9 Jan 89

["Text of Emperor Akihito's Statement"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Following is the statement of new Emperor Akihito at an audience ceremony Monday:

Statement by His Majesty Emperor Akihito at the Choken-No-Gi (January 9, 1989)

Most grieved by his late majesty's (Emperor Hirohito) passing, I have succeeded to the imperial throne in accordance with the Constitution of Japan and the Imperial House Law.

Shrouded in sorrow and overwhelmed by the awesome responsibilities I undertake, I stand humble before you.

Looking back, during the more than 60 years that he was the emperor, his late majesty devoted himself unassumingly to the cause of peace on earth and the betterment of his people and was constantly at one with his people in overcoming the many difficulties in times of turmoil, building today's stability and prosperity, and achieving an honored place in international society as a nation of peace.

In assuming the position of emperor of Japan, I pledge myself to continue in the spirit of his late majesty, making his desire to constantly be at one with the people my desire as well, joining together with you to preserve the Constitution of Japan, and thereby executing my duties faithfully.

In doing so, I do fervently desire the further development of Japan, peace on earth, and enhanced well-being for all peoples.

'Vows To Join Hands With People'

OW0901044589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—New Emperor Akihito told representatives of the Japanese people in the first public pronouncement of his reign Monday that he earnestly hopes for the promotion of world peace and human welfare.

The 55-year-old emperor, in a sokuigo-choken-no-gi or the first audience ceremony, vowed to join hands with the people in abiding by the Japanese Constitution, which stipulates that the emperor is the symbol of state and renounces war.

The somber-looking emperor, who ascended the chrysanthemum throne on the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, on Saturday, made the remarks in a three-minute speech in the ceremony at the spacious Matsunoma Room in the Imperial Palace.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, House of Representatives Speaker Kenzaburo Hara, House of Councillors President Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Koichi Yaguchi were among the 243 representatives attending the session.

The government sponsored the ceremony as part of Emperor Akihito's state duties as stipulated by the Constitution.

New Empress Michiko, 54, who wore a black mourning veil, flanked her husband during the seven-minute session.

The imperial couple's two sons, new Crown Prince Naruhito (Prince Hiro) and Prince Aya, and eight other royal family members joined the ceremony.

Emperor Akihito, expressing deep sorrow over the death of his father, declared he had ascended the throne in line with the Japanese Constitution and the Imperial House Law.

The emperor said he was determined to follow in the footsteps of the late Emperor Hirohito, who he said hoped for world peace and national happiness during the 62 years of his reign and was always at one with the people.

Prime Minister Takeshita, speaking on behalf of the representatives, said he would respect the new emperor as the symbol of unity of the Japanese people.

Takeshita said he would make every effort to construct a vitalized and culturally abundant Japan and to promote world peace and human welfare, as hoped for by the new emperor.

All those attending wore black as a symbol of mourning, the men wearing black ties and the women black ribbons.

Senior officials of three branches of government, prefectural governors, mayors and assembly speakers from local autonomous bodies and their wives attended the ceremony.

More on Ceremony

OW0901060789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—The Imperial Household Agency said 44 out of the 287 people invited were absent from the ceremony.

Among those absent were former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who is recuperating from a stroke, five Diet members of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) and one from the Japan Communist Party (JCP).

Yuzuru Shimasaki, JSP chairman of the House of Representatives' special committee on prices, did not attend the ceremony and said he felt honored to meet the new emperor. He said he supports the constitutional stipulation that the emperor is a symbol of the state.

Shimasaki added, however, that he opposes the ceremony itself, which he said is colored with Shinto.

The JCP has long called for the abolition of the monarchy.

A JCP spokesman said a series of ceremonies marking the succession to the throne ran counter to the spirit of the Constitution, which stipulates the separation of the state and religion.

Takeshita Comments

OW0901070889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0654 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Following is the statement of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at Monday's audience ceremony at the imperial palace:

Response by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at the Choken-No-Gi; (January 9, 1989)

I do not have the words to express my sorrow that, despite the devout prayers of his people, his late majesty (Emperor Hirohito) has passed away.

The gifted emperor who has succeeded to the imperial throne has pledged to preserve the Constitution of Japan and to make his late majesty's desires his desires, and he has spoken of his fervent hopes for the further development of Japan, peace on earth, and enhanced well-being for all peoples.

Together with the people of Japan, I do hereby pledge to make every possible effort, under the Constitution of Japan and with the emperor the symbol of the unity of the people, to make Japan open to the world, full of vitality, and culturally rich, and to strive in the cause of universal peace and human welfare.

Prime Minister Takeshita May Cancel U.S. Visit
OW0701124989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Political schedules will not be affected by the death of Emperor Hirohito, government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party sources said Saturday.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will make a stumping tour of Chiba on January 14 as scheduled to call for support and understanding for the new tax system, and the LDP will not change its schedule to hold fund-raising parties in Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures, on January 28 and 29 respectively, the sources said.

The Finance Ministry will compile its draft of the Fiscal 1989 state budget on January 19 and the cabinet will decide the final budget on January 24 as scheduled, they said.

Takeshita will deliver a policy speech at the Diet on February 9 or 10, the sources said.

The current regular Diet session, convened December 30, is currently in recess.

The interpellations by representatives of parties will be held for three days from February 13, and deliberations on the budget will begin after that, they said.

However, Prime Minister Takeshita will not visit the United States in March, as it was recently speculated he would, because his schedule has become very tight and there is a possibility new U.S. President George Bush will attend the funeral for the late Emperor Hirohito expected on February 24, the sources said.

Uno Meets With Chinese Counterpart in Paris
OW0901000389 Tokyo KYODO in English 2336 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 8 KYODO—Foreign Ministers Sosuke Uno of Japan and Qian Qichen of China agreed here on Sunday that an early solution of the Kampuchean conflict is indispensable for peace and stability in Asia.

They confirmed their continued efforts for the settlement of the problem.

The accord came during a 45-minute meeting between the Japanese and Chinese ministers at the Chinese office at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on Sunday afternoon, according to Uno's aides.

During the meeting, Uno told Qian that Japan's position on the Kampuchean issue is supported by the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the sources said.

Qian told Uno that he would meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a Kampuchean resistance leader, during his stay in Paris.

Qian said China wanted to promote the solution of the Kampuchean issue through talks with Sihanouk, whose role in negotiations on Kampuchea's peace is highly rated by Beijing, according to Uno's aides.

Uno briefed the Chinese minister about the results of his talk in Tokyo with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in December.

Uno also welcomed Qian's talks with Shevardnadze in Moscow in early December, saying that the Sino-Soviet talks helped the promotion of peace in Asia, Uno's aides said.

Qian told Uno that his planned talks with Shevardnadze in Beijing would be long and substantive, though he did not indicate the exact date of the Sino-Soviet talks, the sources said.

Qian suggested that the Kampuchean problem would be the most important agenda item in his discussions with Shevardnadze.

Uno and Qian confirmed mutual efforts for further friendly relations between Japan and China, which marked the 10th anniversary of a bilateral peace and friendship treaty last year, the sources said.

The Japanese minister thanked Qian for messages of condolence extended by Chinese officials and people from every sector of the country over the death of Emperor Hirohito.

North Korea

Reaction to 'Team Spirit-89' Exercise

Termed 'Challenge to Peace'

SK0701053389 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0008 GMT 7 Jan 89

[NODONG SINMUN 7 January commentary: "Challenge to the Aspiration for Peace and Reunification"]

[Text] According to a Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation report from South Korea on 5 January, an official of the puppet Defense Ministry disclosed that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise of the U.S. Army and the puppet Army this year will be conducted from 27 January to the end of April. Meanwhile, the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command disclosed that some reports concerning the reduction in the scale of the "Team Spirit" exercise are far from accurate, and that this war exercise this year will be participated in, as usual, by some 200,000 troops, including 60,000 troops of the U.S. Army.

This suggests that the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets are attempting not only to conduct the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise this year as well but to conduct it unprecedentedly ahead of schedule on the largest scale ever in history.

As has already been exposed, the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is not a mere exercise but a preliminary war and a test nuclear war designed in the main for a three-dimensional offensive operation for northward invasion based on a preemptive nuclear strike mobilizing an enormous amount of troops, more than enough to wage a full-fledged war.

This adventurous playing with fire which could be turned into a real war at any time is the object of the strong protests and denunciations of our people and the world's peace-loving people. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have decided to conduct this war exercise this year again, which is quite intolerable.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have posed a headlong challenge to our sincere efforts for peace and reunification. As has been known, we put forth a comprehensive peace plan last year and proposed tripartite talks participated in by us, the United States, and South Korea and high-level North-South political and military talks to realize the peace plan. Scheduled for this year in our

country are such multichannel dialogues and negotiations as the North-South joint parliamentary meeting, sports talks, and student talks.

With the ardent desire to ensure peace in the country and make practical progress in accelerating peaceful reunification without fail this year by actively promoting the present phase of the situation which is developing favorably for the reunification of the fatherland, we made assertions early this year for an effective step to end the state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South and demanded that the South Korean authorities at least clearly show an attitude not to conduct the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise this year in response to our efforts, proposing the convocation of a North-South political consultative meeting to arrive at national agreement on the method of reunification.

While the state of confrontation continues and the guns roar, it is impossible for the North and the South to meet face to face with each other. Even if they should meet, it would be impossible for them to reach any positive agreement for the solution of the issue of reunification.

The South Korean ruling bunch decided to conduct the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise together with the U.S. imperialists this year as well. We cannot but regard this as an intentional and planned maneuver to disable the realization of the multichannel North-South dialogue, which is scheduled by dint of our just proposal and sincere efforts, and to obstruct the realization of our proposal for peace and reunification.

The war commotions of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets run counter to the general trend of the times which is firmly advancing toward peace and reunification, an open challenge to our sincere efforts, and an intolerable crime that throws a wet blanket over the yearning of all the people in the North and the South for reunification, a yearning that is filling their hearts as the new year begins.

The South Korean puppets themselves revealed that they are vicious enemies of peace and peaceful reunification whose babbling about dialogue and detente, which they have persistently raved about through real action [as heard], is all false. They have revealed that they have only the will to perpetually divide the country together with the foreign forces, to provoke a war of northward invasion, and to make the nation fall victim to the nuclear war of the foreign forces.

The fact that the puppets, while attempting to habitually engage in the game of playing with fire against their fellow countrymen together with the aggressive Army, offer gibberish pretending that they are interested in dialogue with us is ridiculous.

The puppet defense minister staged a farce of requesting the commander of the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression in South Korea to announce the plan of the "Team

Spirit" joint military exercise, which had been scheduled to be announced on 25 January, in the latter part of next month in consideration of the atmosphere for the North-South dialogue. How can postponing the timing of the announcement be helpful in providing an atmosphere for dialogue when they are attempting to conduct their game of playing with fire designed for northward invasion, thus challenging our call for a halt to the "Team Spirit" war exercise for the successful progress of dialogue? The puppets should stop such a cheap trick, be ready to make a new change in policy in response to our sincere efforts for peace and reunification, and stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise.

If the puppets do conduct the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise against us, together with the aggressive Army, despite our repeated warnings, they will be held totally responsible for all the consequences arising there from.

U.S. Says No Reduction in Scale

SK0901083089 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
0008 GMT 8 Jan 89

[NODONG SINMUN 8 January commentary: "Stop the Reckless War Exercise"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department on 7 January announced that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise for 1989 would be conducted as scheduled and, that there would not be any reduction in its scale or shortening of its duration. This shows that by all means the U.S. imperialists will stage the reckless playing with fire on the Korean peninsula despite the opposition of the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people.

The "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise is a vicious offensive operational exercise designed to wage a pre-emptive strike against our Republic, and it is an extremely dangerous nuclear war exercise. This is a vicious crime in opposition to peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea. It is an attempt to impose the calamity of a nuclear war on our people, and this poses a grave threat to the peace of Asia and the world.

The Korean people sternly condemn and denounce the reckless "Team Spirit" war exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and strongly demand that they stop the dangerous playing with fire.

At this time when the yearning for peace and the reunification of the fatherland is an unstoppable trend, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to shake the sky and the earth with a large-scale war exercise. This is a reckless act to aggravate the North-South confrontation and the state of tension and to bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

To peacefully solve the Korean question through dialogue and negotiation is the firm will and consistent position of our party and the government of the Republic. Prompted by the ardent desire to ensure the peace of

the country and to make practical progress in accelerating peaceful reunification by all means this year through the active promotion of a phase in the current situation which is developing favorably for the reunification of the fatherland, we have made a series of specific proposals and have been making sincere efforts for the realization of them. Therefore, multichannel dialogues and negotiations are scheduled on the Korean peninsula, such as the North-South joint parliamentary meeting, sports talks, and student talks.

We have demanded that if the South Korean authorities are willing to make a new change in their policy in response to our efforts for peace and peaceful reunification, the least thing that they can do is make clear their attitude: not to conduct the "Team Spirit" exercise this year.

The hard-won North-South dialogue has been frustrated in the past because the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets conducted the "Team Spirit" war exercise and engaged in a military threat to invade our Republic. It is evident that dialogue can hardly be conducted under the roar of guns and that even if the two sides were to sit together for dialogue, it would not bring forth positive results. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are again attempting to conduct the "Team Spirit" war exercise this year. This is an open challenge to our sincere efforts for peace and peaceful reunification. We cannot but regard this as an intentional and planned maneuver aimed at laying down an obstacle to dialogue between the North and the South and preventing our fair and just proposals from being realized. This reveals that the peace, detente, and dialogue on the Korean peninsula babbled about by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are all false signboards designed to deceive opinion at home and abroad.

The "Team Spirit" war exercise is the product of the U.S. imperialists' Asian and world strategy. The U.S. imperialists, bent on wild ambition for world domination, attach importance to the Far Eastern front, and in particular, they have turned South Korea into the largest nuclear forward base in the Far East and a front ranking strategic base. They are scheming to ignite a new war, a nuclear war here.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a test nuclear war and a preliminary war to wage a preemptive strike against our Republic and other socialist countries using South Korea as a stepping stone. The U.S. imperialists are attempting to perpetually occupy South Korea as their colony and military base for their world strategy. For this purpose, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to suppress by force the South Korean people's anti-U.S. struggle for independence and the reunification of the fatherland and to intensify the military dictatorial rule. The "Team Spirit" exercise is an arrogant show of force of the colonial occupier attempting to

encourage the puppets who are trembling with anxiety because of the South Korean people's struggle and to threaten the South Korean people who have risen up in the struggle for justice.

Facts show that although an atmosphere for detente is being created in international relations, the U.S. imperialists are scheming to make the Korean peninsula remain a region which is still tense and which is a potential site of a war.

The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers for aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula do not conform to the world trend heading toward detente and peace. Whether they conduct the "Team Spirit" war exercise or not is a test to show whether the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets want North-South confrontation or the alleviation of the situation and dialogue.

The Korean people never want the reckless provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for a war of northward invasion.

Nothing can curb the will of the Korean nation to put an end to the domination and interference of the foreign imperialist aggressors and achieve peace and the peaceful reunification of the country. The United States should looey squarely at the reality of Korea, stop the reckless war exercise, and withdraw from South Korea at an early date taking along the U.S. troops and the nuclear weapons.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets conduct the "Team Spirit" war exercise despite the opposition of the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people, they will be held totally responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

View of State Department Statement

SK0801084189 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0828 GMT 8 Jan 89

["Criminal Acts Hindering North-South Dialogue"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. State Department on January 7 announced that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises will be staged in South Korea this year, too, as usual, according to a report from Washington.

It is something unusual that an announcement concerning the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres made by the U.S. State Department came in the wake of the advertisement of the criminal war game by the puppet Defence Ministry and the "Combined Forces Command" of South Korea and the United States two days ago. This brings the gravity of the situation into a bolder relief and it arouses a storm of indignation from the Korean people and the peaceloving people of the world.

The fact that even the State Department is making a fuss, publishing the plan of the "Team Spirit" shows how the U.S. imperialists are bewildered and perplexed by the new developments in which multi-channel dialogues between the north and the south are expected thanks to our positive initiatives and how desperately they are trying to cast dark clouds over them.

Announcing the criminal test nuclear war programme, the U.S. State Department did not forget to add the poor excuse that the military manoeuvres would be "annual exercises of defensive nature" as they had customarily claimed. Of course, this cannot convince anyone. Labeling as "defensive" the "Team Spirit" which is climaxed with landing operations of tremendous scale reminiscent of the landing on Inchon in 1950 is a rigmarole beyond common sense and a foolish lie which cannot fool even a mere child.

All the facts show that the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys do not want the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification and they refuse still to give up their anachronistic wild ambition to invade the North.

The U.S. imperialists and their stooges will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences of their reckless war game.

Armed Forces Spokesman Statement

SK0901132289 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Press statement by spokesman of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces issued on 9 January—read by announcer]

[Text] On 7 January, the U.S. Department of State announced that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise for 1989 would be staged as usual.

According to a South Korean radio, the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for this year will be held from 27 January to the end of April with the mobilization of more than 200,000 troops including 60,000 men of the U.S. forces.

This indicates that the "Team Spirit" war game will be staged this year much earlier than last year on the same scale.

This scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is a downright challenge to the sincere efforts for detente on the part of the government of our Republic and a mockery of the unanimous desire of the world peace-loving people for peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

In demanding a stop to the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers, we seek to make substantial progress in promoting peace in the country and its peaceful reunification by actively accelerating the process of the favorable development of the present situation for the reunification of the country.

As shown by the lesson from the past period, misunderstanding and distrust cannot be removed and a creditable dialogue cannot be held without eliminating the state of acute confrontation on the Korean peninsula. Those parties responsible for easing tension on the Korean peninsula should not commit the act of irritating the other side and straining the situation, but should free themselves from the past concept of confrontation in keeping with the new trend of detente and boldly remove all factors causing distrust and clashes.

Out of this sincere wish, we have put forth concrete proposals for the relaxation of tension and guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula and waited for a positive response from them.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities have the least interest in detente on the Korean peninsula, they, in response to our sincere efforts, should have expressed, at least, the attitude to refrain from staging the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year.

Utterly ignoring our efforts to ease tension, however, the United States and the South Korean authorities are going to stage the "Team Spirit" again. They therefore have exposed themselves to be seeking confrontation and war rather than dialogue and detente.

Dialogue itself is aimed at easing tension. This being the case, continuing a nuclear war exercise against us, the other side in the dialogue, is nothing but the act of those who are crazed for confrontation and war. Dialogue and war exercise can never be compatible. Even though the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are babbling about defensive exercises or invitations to hide the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, no one in the world will believe it.

In its nature, content and scale the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is an extremely provocative play with fire and an out-and-out aggressive war game which is aimed at mounting an all-out attack on the northern half of the country by a nuclear preemptive strike. If they are interested in detente and dialogue on the Korean peninsula, the United States and the South Korean authorities have no reason to refuse to cancel the plan of the reckless war maneuvers.

The situation on the Korean peninsula and the surrounding area now is not so dangerous as to compel the United States and the South Korean authorities to stage the large-scale joint military maneuvers.

To the contrary, the situation on and around the Korean peninsula is being turned toward the direction of making a breakthrough for peacefully solving the Korean problem.

There have been several rounds of meetings of parliamentarians from the two sides for the preparation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and high-level political and military talks, sports talks, and student talks between the North and the South are the order of the day, and our proposal for a North-South political consultative meeting has been raised anew.

Whenever we put forth new proposals for easing tension in the past, the United States asserted that the North-South dialogue should be held first. Public opinion at home and abroad expresses great concern over the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities are trying to bring the situation to the brink of war by kicking up war exercise rackets again while running counter to the tenor of the times.

The U.S. imperialists must stop right now inciting confrontation and increasing tensions behind the scenes with such reckless military provocations as "Team Spirit," while talking about dialogue in public.

The South Korean puppets, if they are truly interested in the North-South dialogue, must free themselves from dependence on the foreign forces and stop wrecking the atmosphere of dialogue and join in the nationwide movement for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets again stage the aggressive "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, ignoring our repeated protests, they will never escape the responsibility for spoiling on purpose and in a premeditated way the atmosphere of dialogue and detente created on the Korean peninsula.

Further on Spokesman's Statement

SK0901104089 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1023 GMT 9 Jan 89

["Spokesman of DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces denounces scheme of U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique to stage 1989 'Team Spirit'—KCNA headline]

[Text] *Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)*—A spokesman of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Monday issued a statement to the press denouncing the announcement of the U.S. State Department that the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres for 1989 would be staged as usual.

The statement reads:

According to a South Korean radio, the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for this year will be held from January 27 to the end of April with the mobilisation of more than 200,000 troops including 60,000 men of the U.S. Forces.

This indicates that the "Team Spirit" war game will be staged this year much earlier than last year on the same scale.

This scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is a downright challenge to the sincere efforts for detente on the part of the government of our Republic and a mockery of the unanimous desire of the world peace-loving people for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

In demanding a stop to the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres, we seek to make a substantial progress in promoting peace in the country and its peaceful reunification by actively accelerating the process of the favorable development of the present situation for the reunification of the country.

Out of this sincere wish, we have put forward concrete proposals for the relaxation of tension and guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula and waited for a positive response from them.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities have the least interest in detente on the Korean peninsula, they, in response to our sincere efforts, should have expressed, at least, the attitude to refrain from staging the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year.

Utterly ignoring our efforts to ease tension, however, the United States and the South Korean authorities are going to stage the "Team Spirit" again. This self-exposes that they are seeking confrontation and war rather than dialogue and detente. In its nature, content and scale the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is an extremely provocative play with fire and an out-and-out aggressive war game which is aimed at mounting an all-out attack on the northern half of the country by a nuclear preemptive strike. If they are interested in detente and dialogue on the Korean peninsula, the United States and the South Korean authorities have no reason to refuse to cancel the plan of the reckless war manoeuvres.

The situation in the Korean peninsula and its surroundings now is not so dangerous as to compel the United States and the South Korean authorities to stage the large-scale joint military manoeuvres.

There have been several rounds of meetings of parliamentarians from the two sides for the preparation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and high-level political and military talks, sports talks and student talks between the North and the South are on the order of the day, and our proposal for a North-South political consultative meeting has been raised anew.

The U.S. imperialists must stop right now inciting confrontation and increasing tensions behind with such reckless military provocation as the "Team Spirit", while talking about the dialogue in public.

The South Korean puppets, if they are truly interested in the North-South dialogue, must free themselves from dependence on the foreign forces and stop wrecking the atmosphere of dialogue and join in the nationwide movement for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets stage again the aggressive "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, ignoring our repeated protests, they will never escape the responsibility for spoiling on purpose and in a premeditated way the atmosphere of dialogue and detente created on the Korean peninsula.

Exercises Said Nuclear Rehearsal

SK0901052989 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0510 GMT 9 Jan 89

["Confrontation Racket From Beginning of the Year."—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean puppets for kicking up a racket of confrontation with the North from the beginning of the year.

The puppet military brasshats at "new year's office opening ceremonies" in all services of the puppet Army on January 4 raised a hue and cry over fictitious "military threat from the North" and "provocation" and cried that they would "destroy" somebody. On January 6, the chief executive of the puppet Defence Ministry said that reports about curtailment and suspension of the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers were false and that such matter had never been considered.

The news analyst says:

All this shows that the puppets intend to stage the provocative "Team Spirit" joint maneuvers against the North together with the U.S. imperialist aggression forces this year, too, and intensify their war moves for aggression on the North.

This year we proposed a radical nation-saving measure to bring about a substantial progress in ensuring peace and accelerating peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula.

In particular, we urged the South Korean authorities to make a new policy change in response to our sincere peace efforts and, at least, clearly express their attitude not to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year.

But, the South Korean puppets plan to hold the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a rehearsal for nuclear attack on the North, together with the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, raising a confrontation racket from the beginning of the year. This is a grave challenge to our sincere efforts for peaceful reunification and an unpardonable criminal act throwing a wet blanket over the nation's desire for reunification.

The No Tae-u group must ponder over the grave effect of the "Team Spirit" exercises it is planning to stage with the U.S. imperialists on the North-South dialogues and the cause of reunification and unconditionally give them up.

Discontinuation of Exercise Urged

SK0901051889 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0458 GMT 9 Jan 89

["Provocative "Team Spirit" Joint Manoeuvres Must Be Given up at Once."—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—World public circles strongly demand that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique stop at once the provocative "Team Spirit" joint military exercises staged every year.

Foreign public organisations including the Mali committee for Afro-Asian solidarity and the Malian peace movement in a joint statement exposed the crimes of the U.S. imperialists in trying to dominate Asia and the rest of world and called for the discontinuation of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises which lead the situation of the Korean peninsula to a brink of war and threaten peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Branding the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres which are staged annually in South Korea as a very dangerous and aggressive military action, the Communist Party of Great Britain in a protest letter urged the United States and the South Korean authorities to discontinue at once all their war games.

The headquarters of the People's Army of the Syrian Arab Republic in a statement branded U.S. imperialism as the chieftain of aggression and war and heinous disturber of world peace bent on unleashing a new world war, a nuclear war.

The Bulgarian Paper OTECHSTVEN FRONT noted that the U.S. imperialists have staged the "Team Spirit" joint military game every year with the South Korean puppet army, and said that this is aimed at invading the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which is engaged in peaceful construction.

Regarding the "Team Spirit" joint military game annually staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique as a grave provocative action threatening peace in Asia and the rest of the world and a challenge to the just cause of the Korean people for the national

reunification, the African regional committee of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people in a statement called upon all the political parties, public organizations and solidarity organizations all over the world to bitterly expose and denounce it.

Various Factions Support Kim Il-song Proposal

Proposal Termed Reasonable

SK0701103889 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1020 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song respectfully proposed, in his new year address for 1989, that a north-south political consultative meeting be held in Pyongyang in the near future with the participation of leadership-level people who can represent the will of various political parties and groupings and people of all walks of life in the north and the south with a view to discussing the way to achieve reunification through a confederation.

In this regard NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article entitled "A Reasonable Proposal for Negotiation Which Reflects the Main Trend of the Developments and the Nation's Desire for Reunification," which says in part:

The new negotiation proposal for holding a North-South political consultative meeting of leadership-level people and finding the way to achieve reunification through a confederation is a timely and just initiative which reflects the ardent desire of the whole nation for reunification and the main trends of the developments in our country and a save-the-nation measure which makes it possible to collect the intentions and demands of the nation and thus solve the reunification problem rapidly.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"In addition, this year we should reach a national agreement on the reasonable way for the solution of the national reunification problem."

If the reunification problem is to be solved in a peaceful way in keeping with the intentions and interests of the nation, political views on national reunification should be exchanged and multilateral or bilateral negotiations on the reasonable way for the peaceful reunification be held between representatives of various political parties, groupings and people of all walks of life in the North and the South.

Noting that if a North-South political consultative meeting is convened, the leadership of North and South will be able to have multilateral as well as bilateral talks within its framework, Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address said that if the leadership-level people of

South Korea visit Pyongyang with constructive proposals for reunification we will welcome them and consult them with an open mind about any proposals they will advance.

Since our proposal for a North-South joint conference has not yet been carried into practice, the political consultative meeting of leadership-level people who can represent the will of various political parties and groupings and people of all walks of life in the north and the south is a most appropriate and reasonable form of dialogue for reaching a national agreement on the way to achieve reunification.

If the leadership-level people of north and south sit together and consult each other with sincerity, giving importance to the one and only common national ideal of theirs, although they have differing ideas, religious beliefs and political views, they will be able to promote understanding and trust and achieve reconciliation and unity, and find a reasonable way to attain reunification based on a national agreement and open a new chapter in the history of the nation.

Any one who truly loves the country and the nation and cares for the destiny of the fatherland should not hesitate to join in the efforts to solve the reunification problem and work hard to share multilateral as well as bilateral talks with us, responding to the new proposal for the convocation of the north-south political consultative meeting, a proposal which stems from the single desire for national salvation.

The South Korean authorities must not pursue confrontation and division contrary to the nation's desire for reunification but turn to the road of national unity and reunification and accede to our realistic proposal for the convocation of the North-South political consultative meeting.

Ho Tam Expresses Support

SK0801104089 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2200 GMT 4 Jan 89

["Statement" by Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee and CPRF chairman—read by announcer]

[Text] In his historic 1989 new year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, after summing up the brilliant successes and accomplishments our people attained last year in the revolution and in construction, has presented the honorable tasks that must be carried out this year in various domains.

In particular, the great leader profoundly analyzed and assessed the situation in South Korea which has undergone an important change and brought about a reunification movement and which has reached a new stage of development. He made clear the principled stand of our party and the Republic's Government to remove the

acute political and military confrontation between the North and South and to check and frustrate the maneuvers of the forces of division within and without for fabricating two Koreas in conformity with the favorable situation in which reunification sentiment is surging ahead. He then put forward a new epochal proposal for discussing the way to reunify through confederation by holding a political consultative meeting between the leadership-level people of the North and South.

The wise proposals and new proposals for negotiations advanced by the great leader for national peace and peaceful reunification of the country are the programmatic guidelines capable of easing the (acute) tension on the Korean peninsula, of frustrating the maneuvers of the forces of division within and without to fabricate two Koreas, and of settling the reunification question at an early date by probing the most reasonable ways of reunification by reflecting the national will. They are also a banner of national salvation and reunification that implants in the hearts of all fellow country a conviction in and hope for national reunification.

Convinced that the policies and proposals concerning national reunification explained by the great leader in his new year address are the firm guarantee for preventing the perpetuation of the national division through the harmony and unity of the entire nation and for brilliantly realizing the historic cause of national reunification in the near future, I warmly support and welcome them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: This year we should make, without fail, substantial progress in guaranteeing national peace and in hastening the peaceful reunification of the country by actively moving forward the current situation which is developing for the better.

The great leader has stated the consistent stand of our party and the Republic's Government to produce a breakthrough for mutual trust and unity at an early date by taking effective measures designed to remove the state of political and military confrontation.

Today when the ardent desire of all fellow countrymen for reunification is burning brightly, the issue of removing the state of political and military confrontation between the North and South has become a demand more pressing than ever.

Removing the acutely confrontational relations between the North and South is an indispensable precondition for guaranteeing durable peace on the Korean peninsula and for realizing dialogue, negotiations, collaboration, exchanges, and peaceful reunification of the country amid an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust.

In reality, however, the state of political and military confrontation between the North and South, running counter to the desires of all of our fellow countrymen, is

becoming more acute by the day. Under such circumstances, the North and South are unable to remove the mutual misunderstanding and distrust, or hold trustworthy dialogue, or successfully settle any matters that are related to national reunification.

In order to remove such an abnormal situation, our party and the Republic's Government have already put forth concrete proposals for the phased reduction and withdrawal of the existing armed forces of all types, including the U.S. troops, on the Korean peninsula and for removing the state of immediate political and military confrontation between the North and South. Our proposals as such are most reasonable proposals and are capable of removing the acute confrontation and tension between the North and South and of substantially guaranteeing a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

In his new year address, the great leader stressed that if the South Korean authorities are willing to change their policy in response to our efforts for easing the state of political and military confrontation, they should, at least, clearly express their attitude not to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise this year.

Whether South Korea stages the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise this year or not it will be a touchstone determining whether it still wants confrontation between the North and South or wants the relaxation of tension and it will inevitably have serious effect on the future of dialogue of various forms expected to take place in the future.

To remove the state of immediate political and military confrontation in our country and achieve national reconciliation and unity, high-level North-South political-military talks must be held at an early date. If and when these talks are held and measures are taken to remove the state of political and military confrontation between the North and South, North-South relations will be greatly improved and a new phase of detente will begin on the Korean peninsula.

The new proposal for negotiations made by the great leader in his New Year's address—the proposal to seek a way of reunification through the form of confederation by opening a political consultative meeting of leadership-level people in the North and South—is a most reasonable national salvation measure for settling the question of the country's reunification at an early date by reflecting the will and demand of the people of all walks of life in the North and South at the present stage.

The reunification question, which involves the interests of the entire nation, cannot be the monopoly of a single political party or the persons in authority in the North and South. It can be settled successfully only through the united will and strength of the entire nation. In reality, the compatriots of all walks of life in the North and

South and abroad now enthusiastically insist on actively participating in the dialogue for reunification, while calling for the masses to take the lead in reunification.

Under such circumstances, convening a political consultative meeting of leadership-level people in the North and South attended by the figures capable of representing the will of the political parties, groupings, and people of all walks of life in the North and South is the only realistic way of successfully settling the reunification question by broadly reflecting the will of the people.

Within the framework of this political consultative meeting, the leadership-level people in the North and South will be able to have not just multilateral, but also bilateral talks.

It is amply possible in practical terms to discuss the issue of reunification through the form of confederation at the political consultative meeting of leadership-level people in the North and South.

As is widely known, different sociopolitical systems and ideologies exist in the North and South. Under such circumstances, in order to settle the question of national reunification based on the three principles of national reunification, namely independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity, there can be no better way than the founding of a unified state in the form of a confederation.

Proceeding from such a stand, our party has already put forward a most reasonable and realistic proposal for achieving national reunification by way of founding an independent, democratic, peace-loving, and neutral confederal state through the establishment of a confederal government on condition that the North and South recognize and tolerate each other's ideologies and systems and under which the both sides exercise autonomy respectively.

Our proposal for the founding of the democratic confederal republic of Koryo [DCRK] that embodies the three principles for national reunification—*independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity*—is proving its justness more clearly by the day and is gaining hold on the hearts of increasing numbers of people at home and abroad.

Voice calling for reunifying the country through confederation are also ringing out strongly even among the broad range of people of all walks of life in South Korea and abroad.

Even the South Korean opposition parties and dissident political forces are also expressing their sympathy with the plan for reunifying the country through forming a confederal system—while calling for proposals of various forms for reunification through the form of confederation—and even the persons in authority in South Korea find it increasingly difficult to ignore it anymore.

This proves that the proposal for reunifying the country through a confederal system can sufficiently be the basis of consensus of the entire nation, even though the two sides may have differences in view when it comes to its particulars.

The new proposal advanced by the great leader for discussing the issue of reunifying the country through a confederal system by opening the political consultative meeting of leadership-level people in the North and South is the most reasonable and realistic proposal for negotiations as it has amply taken into consideration such concrete realities, conditions, and practical possibilities in our country.

I am convinced that if the leading figures of the North and the South seriously discuss the problems on the agenda at the political consultative meeting, putting aside the differences in ideology, system, and political view, making everything serve the cause of reunification, we will undoubtedly be able to arrive at an excellent method for reunification based on the agreement of the entire nation.

Truly, the proposal for the convocation of the North-South political consultative meeting embodies the lofty independent, patriotic, and nation-loving will of the great leader to jointly explore the reasonable ways to achieve reunification for national salvation at an early date with the day of reunification not too far ahead of us.

The fact that the great leader proclaimed once again in his New Year's address the fundamental position on the struggle against the two Koreas plot of the forces of division within and without represents the firm will and position of our party and people to fulfill the cause of reunifying the fatherland, our nation's long-cherished desire, overcoming all difficulties blocking the reunification of the country.

The most urgent task set for our people today in carrying out the cause of reunifying the fatherland is to struggle against the two Koreas plot of the forces of division within and without. Now the South Korean puppets, with the active instigation of the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries, are conducting maneuvers for the two Koreas plot more cunningly and persistently than ever before. If the maneuvers for the two Koreas plot of the forces of division within and without are left unchecked, the division of our country will be fixed, South Korea may be turned into a double colony of the United States and Japan, and our nation may fall victim to the confrontation policy of foreign forces.

Perpetual division of our people into two, who have lived as one nation in a unified state throughout history is far from tolerable not only to communists but to nationalists as well. All the Korean people who are concerned about the fate of the country and the nation

should achieve great national unity, transcending ideology, ideals, and systems, and launch themselves as one into the patriotic struggle against the two Koreas plot of the forces of division within and without.

That the respected and beloved leader elucidated new ways to national salvation in his New Year's address this year to overcome the difficulties blocking the way to the reunification of the fatherland and to successfully achieve the cause of reunification is the weapon of struggle and the banner of encouragement that crush the maneuvers of the forces of division within and without and powerfully arouse all the people to the struggle for the reunification of the fatherland.

All the Korean people, greeting the hopeful new year, should struggle, upholding the plan of reunification for national salvation put forth by the great leader, the sun of the nation and the lodestar of the reunification of the fatherland, in his new year's address. They should make practical progress in achieving the cause of reunification without fail this year, thereby opening a new breakthrough.

We express our expectations that the peace-loving countries and people of the world will continue to send us firm solidarity with our people in their just struggle for peace and the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

[Dated] 4 January 1989, Pyongyang.

Commentary Criticizes Arrest of Officers in South
SK0801084989 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0839 GMT 8 Jan 89

["Fascist Act of Political Gangsters"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group arrested five Army officers who had made public a "declaration of conscience" urging the "political neutrality of the Army" and democratisation, on January 6, alleging that they "are linked with an organized force" and it "will investigate the back-stage force".

NODONG SINMUN today condemns the arrest as an open challenge to the South Korean people who call for democracy, which could be committed by no one but the political gangsters like the No Tae-u group who have no knowledge of politics and have thrown away their "commitments" like a pair of worn-out shoes.

A signed commentary of the daily says:

In their "Declaration of Conscience", the puppet Army officers expressed their resolve to take the lead in "correct thinking and act" and refrain from "any kind of anti-popular, anti-democratic act" in the future.

This is in accord with the aspirations of people who call for independence, democracy and reunification and can never be branded as a crime.

They only declared they would no more follow the road of disgraceful crimes against the nation. How can they be a target of the fascist crackdown? If it were a crime, what legal action should be taken against the traitor No Tae-u who has so far made a vociferous advertisement of the "political neutrality of the Army" on many occasions?

By cracking down on the officers who demanded the "political neutrality of the Army" and democratisation, the No Tae-u group self-exposed that its advertisement of "democratisation" and "political neutrality of the Army" was a sneer lie intended to conceal its true nature as military gang and it has only the sinister scheme to maintain and prolong its military dictatorial "regime" in reliance upon the puppet Army.

The puppets are these days openly claiming that the "political neutrality of the Army" is not a question to be dealt with in the political sphere. This is indicative of the criminal design to overwhelm the opposition forces who call for "political neutrality" of the puppet Army and to keep hold on the puppet Army.

The No Tae-u group must immediately discontinue its fascist suppression of the righteous-minded people who aspire after democracy.

Increasing Tensions in Panmunjom Noted
SK0701154089 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Kaesong January 7 (KCNA)—The enemy committed a grave crime in scattering many leaflets vilifying us and prettifying corrupt South Korean society in the joint security area in Panmunjom and around the conference room at dawn on January 7. In this connection our side called a meeting of security officers on the spot in the Panmunjom joint security area today.

The security officer of our side said that the reckless criminal act of the enemy side further aggravated the political confrontation and increased tension in the joint security area at Panmunjom, and strongly demanded the enemy side to punish the organizers of the crime and take a responsible step to prevent the recurrence of such criminal act.

But, the security officer of the enemy side attempted to avoid the responsibility, shamelessly alleging that there was no ground for it to have scattered leaflets, instead of giving assurances of meeting our demand.

The security officer of our side strongly called the enemy to task, showing as a proof leaflets of the enemy which had remained till that time near the conference room.

The security officer of the enemy side, unable to find any word to excuse itself in face of stark proof, could no longer deny that the leaflets were scattered by it.

The security officer of our side stressed: If the guards of both sides in the joint security area in Panmunjom where they are standing in confrontation with each other engage themselves in political slander inciting the other side's nerves and insulting it, it will result only in heightening tension and causing confrontation and conflict.

Saying that intolerable is the heightening of tension at a time when measures to ensure security in the joint security area in Panmunjom are under discussion, he strongly demanded that the enemy look straight at reality and act with discretion.

South Korea

No Expresses Condolence on Emperor's Death

SK0701045489 Seoul YONHAP in English
0441 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—The government and major political parties expressed condolences Saturday on the death of Japan's Emperor Hirohito earlier in the day.

"At the news of the passing of Emperor Hirohito, I respectfully tender my condolences to His Majesty Akihito, his bereaved family, and the people of Japan," President No Tae-u said in a telegram to Crown Prince Akihito.

Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, in a telegram of condolences to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, said, "I wish that the Japanese people will overcome their sorrow and make further progress under your leadership."

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung also sent a telegram to his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno.

In contrast to the polite expressions of sorrow by the government, political parties showed mixed feelings toward Hirohito's death, reflecting the decades of oppressive Japanese rule over Korea during his reign.

"We respectfully tender our condolences to the Japanese people," said a statement issued by the ruling Democratic Justice Party. "We reserve further comment, considering the sad history in the past, and the current Korea-Japan relationship."

The Party for Peace and Democracy, Korea's largest opposition party, said the Korean people have complex feelings about the emperor's death in view of the 20 years during his reign when Japan ruled Korea.

"We expect Japan to make progressive efforts for peaceful progress of Asia and the world, re-establishing Korea-Japan relations as truly cooperative," said the statement.

Kim Chong-pil, president of the third largest opposition party, while joining in the condolences, said that Hirohito's death signals the virtual end of "Japan's intricate postwar period."

Opposition 'Toned Down' Condolences

SK0801061689 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Jan 89 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Dry Condolences"]

[Text] The ruling and opposition parties expressed their condolences to the Japanese people on the occasion of Hirohito's death in formal statements but they toned down compassion apparently in consideration of Korea's general feeling toward the emperor, on the throne during the colonial period.

In a rare, two-sentence statement, Rep. Pak Hui-tae of the Democratic Justice Party, said, "(We give) sincere condolences to the Japanese people. I will make no more comment, thinking of our tragic past and today's official relationship with Japan."

Yi Sang-su of the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy also delivered condolences to the people of the neighboring country.

But he went on in a brief statement, "The Korean people can hardly restrain their mixed feelings when they are reminded of the Japanese colonial yoke during Hirohito's reign." He gave a deliberate snub to Hirohito by calling him Japanese king instead of his official title of emperor, in sharp contrast with condolence messages by government officials in which they called him with full respect—"His Majesty, the Emperor."

Kim Yong-sam, president of the Reunification Democratic Party, ordered his spokesman Rep. So Chung-won to withdraw a statement seemingly in a dilemma over wording.

Hirohito's death has forced Kim Yong-sam to delay his plans to travel to Japan. He was due to fly to Tokyo Jan. 11-16 at the invitation of Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party.

Quite different from the spokesman who issued the seemingly lip-service consolation, Kim Chong-pil delivered his personal condolences in a message, the only leader of a party to do so.

He said, "I could not suppress my laments at the death of Emperor Hirohito."

Government Wary of Reaction to Hirohito Death
SK0801061989 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Jan 89 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Wary of Reaction"]

[Text] A senior Foreign Ministry official said yesterday the government has yet to decide who will head its condolence delegation to the funeral service for Hirohito who died yesterday morning.

He said as the funeral service would happen 40 to 50 days after the emperor's death, the government would not be in such a hurry to make a quick decision. "We have started discussing the matter, though."

He added that the people's reaction to the Japanese emperor's death would be something to be reckoned with.

Concerning Hirohito's death, this official said he hoped that Korea and Japan would be able to turn a new leaf in their relations with Akihito coming to the throne.

"As Hirohito's life was closely related to the unhappy part of our history earlier in this century, we Koreans naturally find thousands of feelings crossing our minds," he said.

But he noted that the two neighboring countries have come a long way toward developing their friendly relations as they are today since the two parties recognized each other back in 1965.

"We should look to the future for a new turning-point in our relations rather than stick to our past history," he added.

Paper on Mixed Reaction to Hirohito Death
SK0801032489 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Jan 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Death of Hirohito"]

[Text] The death of Japanese emperor Hirohito has produced varying reactions world-wide. The Korean people may well have special emotions. Hirohito's 63-year reign in Japan is evaluated from a wide range of negative and positive light according to the persons and countries.

Those who suffered much from the Japanese imperialistic invasions, like Korea, are hard to forget or forgive the wrongdoings of the Japanese aggressors and injustices administered by the imperialistic state, which was headed by the deceased emperor.

As we recall, the Korean people underwent untold prosecution, usurpation and massacre by the cruel Japanese during the 35-year-long despotic colonial rule. Of course,

the Japanese emperor, as the militaristic regime's figure-head had little influence in his government's policy making, but he was at least in a position to express his opposition to the military leadership's iron-fist rule of the Korean peninsula.

It goes without denying that he had been a centripetal force of post-war Japan that was in total despair from its defeat of its provoked war. And as the ceremonial head of state under the American-imposed constitution, Hirohito served as a spiritual pillar for the diligent Japanese recovery and emergence as the second-most powerful economic giant in the Free World.

However, the Japanese people nowadays seem to forget their past faults and behave as the triumphant country with economic success, while many invaded countries are still struggling to heal the scars of Japan's aggressive war. The Japanese should be reminded that they were exempted from compensating for huge war damages that they inflicted upon and for the millions of casualties.

It may be too harsh to assert that Hirohito should have been tried as a war criminal like six Japanese war criminals including the then prime minister Hideki Tojo. But the Japanese government and its people should show a humble attitude as a spiritual debtor to the magnanimous war victor, the United States and its allies on the one hand and Korea and many other Asian countries that were trampled under the feet of the Japanese troops during the war on the other.

Daily Says Japanese 'Exploitation' Unforgettable
SK0801052889 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] The death of Hirohito, emperor of Japan, has left much for Koreans to ponder. The damage Japan inflicted upon Korea during his reign can in no way be forgotten.

Of the 35 years of colonial rule by Japan, the last two decades were the period when Japan's exploitation and suppression peaked.

During his reign, in 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria, subsequently overrunning most of China, and in 1941 made unprovoked attacks on territories of the United States initiating the Pacific phase of World War II.

During the war, Korean people were forcibly mobilized for the war efforts, being drafted into the Japanese army, some were conscripted as workers in mining towns.

When their brutal colonialistic rule showed its teeth, Korean people had their name replaced with Japanese ones.

During those days, the use of the mother language was suppressed and Korean people were forced to worship at Japanese Shinto shrines.

A lot of people who were mobilized during the war period have not returned, yet, being scattered in Sakhalin, Manchuria and China.

And a lot of people who suffered in the atomic bombing while mobilized are still rankling in the shadows.

To them Hirohito's death is something that hit their hearts.

During former president Chon Tu-hwan's visit to Japan in 1984, Hirohito expressed regret about the two nations' unhappy past.

However, his remarks, intended to wrap up the unhappy past history, are not enough, many Koreans believe. In some sense, they understand, no words can make amendments for the sufferings of the Korean people.

The rueful sediment of the unhappy past history remains uncleared despite a lapse of more than two decades since the normalization of relations between the two nations.

Despite their understanding that Japan had committed an enormous crime, only once did a Korean youth make an attempt on the life of Hirohito. In 1932, independence fighter Yi Pong-chang hurled a hand grenade at him as he passed in a sedan. But he escaped unharmed.

No ruler can rival him in the number of wars waged during his reign.

However, he was very much loved by the Japanese people not only as their symbolic ruler but as a man in private life.

Government Regrets Reported Takeshita Remark
SK0901070489 Seoul YONHAP in English
0656 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government expressed on Monday its regret over Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's statement on the death of Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

Takeshita, describing World War II as "a world war that broke out unintentionally," said the Japanese emperor had no responsibility for the war.

"We are checking with the embassy in Tokyo on the accurate remarks (of Takeshita), however, it is regrettable if it is true that he made such remarks," a government spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Seoul's leading daily newspaper, the TONG-A ILBO, called for consideration of the late Japanese emperor's "historic responsibility" before sending "sentimental condolences" on his death.

Pointing out that the first half of Hirohito's 62-year rule was filled with "a history of war and invasion," the newspaper said, "no matter how much Japan denies his responsibility, it won't be able to deny the fact that wars were declared in his name."

In its editorial published Monday, the newspaper, once shut down by Japanese colonial authorities during Japan's 1910-45 occupation of the Korean peninsula, said, "It is also a solemn fact that the Japanese colonial rule over many Asian countries was conducted in the name of the emperor."

"Nevertheless, the war responsibility of Hirohito who trampled down Asia and the Pacific has not been specifically asked. He had expressed only 'regret' but never made a formal apology for various atrocities during his colonial rule," the paper said.

"The responsibility of the United States, which made use of the emperor as a tool of its rule of postwar Japan, should also be pointed out," the paper added.

Emperor's Death Postpones Kim Yong-sam Visit
SK0701045889 Seoul YONHAP in English
0452 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Yong-sam, invited to visit Japan by Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), has indefinitely postponed his scheduled visit at the request of the JSP, a spokesman for Kim's party said Saturday.

The request stems from the JSP's call for six days of national mourning on the death of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, the spokesman said.

Kim's party, the opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), plans to request a visit to Japan by Kim or instead a visit by Doi to Korea after the mourning period.

Kim, the first South Korean politician invited by the JSP to visit Tokyo, was scheduled to be there from Jan. 11-16.

No To Visit Japan, United States in March
SK0901054889 Seoul YONHAP in English
0525 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u is likely to visit the United States and Japan in March, an informed government source said Monday.

The president originally planned to visit Japan late last year but postponed the trip due to the illness of Japanese Emperor Hirohito who died Saturday at the age of 87.

The South Korean Government has hoped that No will visit Japan and the United States at the earliest possible date to have summit meetings with the leaders of the two countries, the source said.

The government is nearing the conclusion that it would be proper for No to visit the two countries in March, considering that U.S. President-Elect George Bush will be inaugurated on Jan. 20 and Emperor Hirohito's state funeral is expected on Feb. 24.

Regarding No's possible visit to the United States and Japan, Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Saturday and Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno on Sunday, respectively, in Paris, the source said. They are in Paris attending an international conference on chemical weapons.

Choe, in the meeting with his Japanese counterpart, agreed to realize No's visit to Japan at the earliest possible date, the source said.

The South Korean president has planned to first visit the Washington after Bush's inauguration and then visit Tokyo en route home from the United States, the source said.

In the summit with Bush, No is expected to discuss ways to materialize a proposed six-nation consultative conference for peace in Northeast Asia, easing of trade frictions and promoting security cooperation between the two allies, and the possible relocation of American military facilities in South Korea from Seoul, the source said.

No proposed in his address at the United Nations General Assembly last October that a six-country consultative meeting be held to discuss ways for reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The topics of a South Korea-Japan summit, the source said, will feature ways to promote mutual friendship, ease trade frictions and upgrade the legal status of Korean residents in Japan.

Report on Choe Ho-chung's Meetings in Paris

SK0901021689 Seoul YONHAP in English
0148 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung and his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno agreed on Sunday to realize President No Tae-u's visit to Japan at the earliest possible date.

The two ministers, here to attend a conference on chemical warfare, also agreed to resume the annual Korea-Japan ministerial meeting this year. The meeting has not been held for two years.

In the talks held at the Japanese Embassy, Uno expressed the hope that No's visit to Japan would be made at the earliest possible date noting that the state visit originally slated for late last year was postponed due to the illness of Japanese Emperor Hirohito. Hirohito died Saturday.

In the talks, Choe requested that the Japanese Government make every effort to improve the status of Koreans living in Japan and repatriate Koreans in the Soviet territory of Sakhalin. Uno responded positively to both requests.

On Saturday, Choe met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to exchange views on the South Korean Government's "northern policy," a diplomatic initiative designed to improve its relations with the Soviet Union, China and other socialist nations.

Choe emphasized that the northern policy would not impede the existing friendly relations between South Korea and the United States, adding that the policy is based on mutual understanding. Shultz expressed his support for and understanding of the northern policy.

Following his talks with Shultz, Choe held talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi to discuss upgrading relations between the two countries to the ambassadorial level.

The two expressed satisfaction with the binational diplomatic and economic relations so far and pledged to consult closely on promoting such ties.

Task Force Set Up To Study Six-Nation Talks

SK0801045489 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
8 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] A working-level task force has been set up at the Foreign Ministry for follow-up study for the six-nation peace conference proposed by President No Tae-u in an address to the U.N. General Assembly in October last year.

The task force is to provide working-level support to the Committee for Promotion of the Peace Conference which first convened Nov. 19 to realize the conference of six nations in Northeast Asia. The committee is headed by Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung.

Kim Sok-kyu, assistant foreign minister for political affairs, will lead the four-member task force whose predecessor is the special task force for promotion of a meeting of summits of Pacific-rim countries which was set up in February 1983.

Kim said the task force, which was formally named the Special Diplomatic Projects Group, will perform works to support the Committee for Promotion of the Peace Conference like documentation of various issues to be discussed and successive measures to be taken.

It will also collect information and perform research on policies of countries in Asia and the Pacific region including the ones related to the conference.

Kim said his ministry is planning to expand the function of the task force to include research and planning of various diplomatic policies including the northern policy.

Direct Commercial Contact With DPRK Reported
SK0701123089 Seoul YONHAP in English
1213 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—Over 600 pieces of artistic works a South Korean trading firm was recently known to be importing from North Korea were shipped to the southern port city of Pusan last Tuesday via Hong Kong, informed business sources said Saturday.

The sources said those articles were delivered to South Korea under a direct contract between South Korea's Daewoo Corp. and North Korea's Kumkangsan (mt. Diamond) International Trade Development Co., which has reportedly been set up in joint ventures with U.S.-based Korean businessmen.

They added Daewoo's contact with Kumkangsan was the first direct commercial contact ever reported between South and North Korea since the Korean peninsula was divided for ideological reasons four decades ago.

They added that the North Korean artistic works were originally loaded at North Korea's western port of Nampo last Dec. 20 and arrived at Pusan via Hong Kong.

The 612 articles include 84 pieces of oriental paintings, 69 pieces of woodworks, 357 ceramic works, 71 stone-works and 22 lacquer ware works, the sources said. The import prices of those articles total 104,000 U.S. dollars but tariff will be exempted since South Korean Government takes inter-Korean trade as an internal commercial act, they added.

Payment will be made through a Seoul branch of a French bank, they said.

South To Permit Attendance at Pyongyang Festival
SK0701071889 Seoul YONHAP in English
0704 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea will allow its students to participate in the World Youth Festival slated for July in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, a top government official in Seoul has said.

"Although the North itself is publicizing it (the festival) as a political event aimed at building solidarity in the anti-imperialist movement of socialist organizations, I don't think the government is in a position to block the students from taking part," Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku said Friday.

Yi said the government hopes many students will be able to travel to North Korea. "The more the better is the position of the government in exchanges with the North," he said.

Yi pointed out that North Korea's invitation posed a problem for it singled out a specific group—the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), a national organization of activist student leaders.

"However, the basic right of free travel should not be limited only for the reason that individuals support a particular ideology. North Korea is also our territory where the right of free travel should be guaranteed," Yi said.

Meanwhile, Chondaehyop has disclosed that the unification board proposed that the council and the board discuss writing a reply to the North Korean invitation.

Chondaehyop said, however, that it will write the reply on its own and discuss with the government such practical details as how to deliver the reply to the North and how to enter the North.

Chondaehyop received the North's invitation on Dec. 28 through the Korea National Red Cross. The invitation was signed by Kim Chang-yong, chairman of North Korea's student committee.

Business Leaders Plan To Visit Soviet Union
SK0901022189 Seoul YONHAP in English
0209 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's business leaders are pushing ahead with plans to visit the Soviet Union for discussions with Soviet officials on possible economic exchanges and joint ventures, business sources said Monday.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), seeking to realize a visit to Moscow by its chairman and vice chairmen, has contacted Soviet channels responsible for arranging foreigners' visits to the communist country, the sources said.

In line with such a move, Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai business group, who is now visiting the Soviet Union, is expected to convey to the Soviet side the willingness of the FKI leadership to visit the Soviet Union, the sources said.

The FKI will make a final decision on the possible visit by its leadership after reviewing the outcome of Chong's trip when he returns home, according to the sources, who declined to be named.

The sources predicted that the business leaders' visit to the Soviet Union, which has no diplomatic relations with South Korea, may be materialized by March, at the earliest.

The FKI is headed by Chairman Ku Cha-kyong, also chairman of the Lucky-Gold Star group, and 12 vice chairmen, most of whom are owners of South Korea's largest business conglomerates.

The FKI leaders hope that their visit, if realized, will be made officially at the invitation of the Soviet Government and that they will be allowed to meet with government officials of at least the ministerial level, because they will visit in the capacity of representatives of South Korea's business community rather than as owners of business conglomerates, the sources said.

The Soviet side is expected to respond positively to the FKI's offer to meet with high-level Soviet officials, the sources said.

The FKI's efforts for such a visit come amid a growing mood between South Korea and the Soviet Union for economic and trade cooperation. The two countries have already agreed to exchange trade offices this year.

If the FKI leadership visits the Soviet Union, they are expected to discuss with the Soviet side ways to promote economic and trade exchanges, South Korean businesses' possible participation in the Soviet Union's Siberian development projects and the establishment of joint-venture businesses, the sources said.

Parties React to Officers' Declaration

SK0701003889 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
7 Jan 89 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Mixed Reactions"]

[Text] Mixed reactions came from the ruling and opposition parties yesterday to the so-called "declaration of honor" by five Army officers calling for the political neutrality of the military on Thursday.

Leading officials of the ruling Democratic Justice Party worried that a serious problem might arise if the affair spread (throughout the Army).

But, the "sensitiveness" of the case made the DJP refrain from making officials comment, whereas the largest opposition Party for Peace and Democracy supported the officers' collective action outside the barracks in an official comment by a party spokesman.

Rep. Yi Chong-chan, the DJP's secretary general who graduated from the Korean Military Academy, said, "I think it desirable the military solve the problem for itself. It would damage the (military) neutrality itself for political parties to intervene".

DJP spokesman Pak Hui-tae, a prosecutor-turned-lawmaker, asked if the officers' deed is unlawful, saying, "I think that their action is contrary to the Military Criminal Law."

The PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, lost no time in lauding ROTC officers for their courage.

Spokesman Yi Sang-su said, "We praise the mettle and true heart of the five Army officers, who braved possible disadvantages to declare the political neutrality of the military."

"We hope that the military authorities will declare their political neutrality although it is late, accepting the demand of the officers as well as the people wishing for democratic reforms of the nation," he said.

"But," the spokesman stressed, "the Army authorities should never give any disadvantages to them because of their 'courageous' deeds."

He recalled that his party "has asked the military to declare its neutrality with the firm belief that the military political neutrality is most important for the realization of democracy."

Then, he claimed that the five officers' action clearly proves how strong the opinion calling for political neutrality is inside the military.

Assembly To Resume Irregularities Probe

SK0901033089 Seoul YONHAP in English
0251 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's ruling and opposition parties will likely engage in a tough tug of war beginning Tuesday when the National Assembly resumes its probes into the wrongdoings of former President Chon Tu-hwan and his administration.

The parliamentary ad hoc committee investigating the 1980 Kwangju uprising and its suppression is to have a vice chairmen meeting and a plenary session to discuss whether to issue writs requiring former Presidents Chon and Choe Kyu-ha to testify at the panel's hearings should they continue to reject its requests to testify.

The committee is also expected to discuss whether to seek more witnesses to appear at another round of hearings slated for Jan. 19-20 and details concerning the scheduled formation of a fact-finding team to be dispatched to Kwangju to probe whether the then martial-law troops killed a number of citizens who were not actually participating in demonstrations during the uprising.

On the sensitive issue concerning the testimony of former presidents, the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) is expected to propose an "indirect" testimony formula, under which Chon is to file written testimony first and then provide verbal answers to representatives of the committee visiting his residence.

The two largest opposition parties—the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP)—have not backed down from their previous demand that Chon and Choe testify at the committee's hearings in person.

Political watchers, however, do not deny the likelihood of an eventual compromise between the DJP and the two largest opposition parties, pointing out that some of the PPD and RDP committee members may come to agree to a less severe proposal upon the realization that their parties' official position may have in some cases adverse effects on the committee's investigative activities.

One view inside the PPD and RDP has it that the refusals of Chon and Choe to comply with the committee's writs may invite intervention by the prosecution which, it is feared, will hamper the normal investigative activities of the parliamentary committee. Should any person refuse to comply with writs issued by the National Assembly, the prosecution can seek legal action against such an individual by acting on the complaint of the National Assembly.

Such a view is also supported by an observation that the two largest opposition parties may retreat toward an agreeable compromise on this matter at the last moment when they find they lack sufficient strength to push ahead with their demand. The minor opposition New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP), which holds a critical swing vote inside the Assembly, has shown signs of a willingness to accept the DJP's formula for settling the matter.

Meanwhile, another ad hoc committee assigned to investigate "irregularities" involving Chon's government is to activate its relevant subcommittees on Jan. 12-13 to probe into major financial scandals involving Chon's wife and possible abuse of power in the dissolution of insolvent enterprises.

Former First Lady's Uncle Arrested for Bribery
SK0701004489 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
7 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] The special investigation department of the Seoul District Prosecution yesterday arrested Yi Kyu-sung, 69, younger brother of Yi Kyu-kwang, former president Chon Tu-hwan's father-in-law, for taking bribery from Samho business group.

Yi was charged with the violation of the Additional Punishment Law on Specific Economic Crimes.

Prosecutors also arrested Ha Tae-yu, 52, Yi's secretary, and Kim Chae-kol, 57, a broker, and booked Ho Suk, 54, Kim's wife who runs Tongnam Clinic, without physical detention on the same charges.

According to prosecutors, Yi, former chairman of Grand Shipping Co., had received 500 million won from Cho Pong-ku, Samho chairman, via Ha at his office in April, 1984.

Choe reportedly gave the money to the uncle of then First Lady Yi Sun-cha to buy his influence in deferring the payment of debt he had borrowed from Cho Hung Bank. The amount of the debt was 250 billion won.

PPD Denies Link to Socialist International
SK0801053989 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
8 Jan 89 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "PPD-SI Alliance"]

[Text] Reacting sensitively to a news report that the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy is about to join Socialist International (SI), Rep. Yi Sang-su, PPD spokesman, said yesterday that his party is not considering affiliating itself with SI, describing the report as "quite untrue."

"It is true that one or two key party officials have offered their personal opinions on the desirability of an affiliation with SI," he disclosed.

However, there were no official contacts between the PPD and SI or former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt for that matter, he said.

His comment came after the news report Friday night that the PPD was in contact with the Socialist International movement in line with the ongoing northern policy being pushed by the government.

Police Arrest Three Hyundai Union Leaders
SK0801050089 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
8 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] Ulsan, South Kyongsang province—Police have arrested three union leaders of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. for taking the union president captive and forcing his resignation.

The three arrested are Yi Hyong-kon, 37, former union president, Yi Won-kap, 31, a union representative, and Cho Kyu-tae, 40, former union vice president.

The three incarcerated the current union president So Tae-su, 41, for two hours from 4 p.m. on Dec. 20 last year during which they gathered 60 union members and forced him to resign, even threatening to kill him if he did not give up his post, according to police.

They are also accused of instigating feuds within the union by setting up a separate emergency committee and appointing Yi Won-kon, the current union vice president and twin brother of Yi Hyong-kon, as the committee chairman after So's forced resignation.

Some 20,000 shipyard workers went on strike last Dec. 12, but So had opposed it and was thus labeled promanagement. So and management then produced an accord which the militant union members rejected.

Police also said that they will seek arrest warrants for 17 others accused by the company of violence or obstruction of duty, including Yi Won-kon who failed to appear for questioning.

The shipyard resumed partial operations on Friday and So and other leaders met early yesterday morning and confirmed their intent to reopen negotiations with the company management on salary and allowance increases while continuing work, a company spokesman said.

But about 100 union members met outside the building around 9 a.m. yesterday insisting that they continue the

strike. The number increased to more than 500 by 9:30 a.m., according to one report.

On Friday when Hyundai employees started reporting to work, 350 union members who were calling for a continued strike raided a factory with wooden sticks and beat up the workers.

Kim Kyu-tae, 45, said Cho Pyong-tak, 28, one of the demonstrators, struck his face with a wooden stick when he tried to stop 13 other protesters from repeatedly hitting Yi Hae-song, a co-worker.

Burma

U.S. Claims Rangoon Killing Returning Students

BK0701023989 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
7 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Senior Thai officials and Rangoon-based diplomats yesterday questioned a statement by the US State Department that pro-democracy students who fled Rangoon are being arrested and killed on their return to Burma.

And the Burmese Government yesterday denied as "absolutely unfounded" reports that students who had returned to official custody after fleeing to border areas had been arrested and killed.

Burmese Government spokesman Kyaw Sann said there would be no interrogation, arrest or any harassment of students after their return.

"Rumours about arrests and deaths of students in government custody... are absolutely unfounded and malicious," he said.

After a news conference, journalists were given addresses of all students in Rangoon who had recently returned from a reception centre in Tak.

Several Burmese newsmen representing foreign media organisations selected addresses at random and found the students at home.

US State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said in Washington on Thursday the US had received credible reports that some 50 students were arrested and a number of them died in detention.

She said Washington was investigating the reports.

"We have received credible reports that a number of Burmese student returnees, who fled Rangoon after the September 18 military takeover, were subsequently arrested and died while in the military regime's custody," Mrs Oakley said.

"We do not have hard information on the precise number nor actual evidence of deaths, but we're sufficiently concerned about the reports... that we will continue efforts to learn the facts on the matter," she said.

She said she thought that 50 or fewer students had been killed, but said she would have to check before she could give an estimate of the number.

Mrs. Oakley didn't disclose when the students to whom she was referring returned.

Thousands of students fled to the Thai-Burmese border after the military suppressed pro-democracy uprisings following the coup.

Some 80 students returned to Burma on December 26 aboard two Burmese Air Force planes after receiving government assurances they would not be harmed.

Rangoon-based diplomats reached by telephone from Bangkok said yesterday, however, they had seen no hard evidence that students had been killed after surrendering at 27 reception camps set up by the military near border areas since the coup, and at another camp in Thailand near the Burmese border.

"This is all unverified rumour," one Western diplomat said.

US diplomats in the Burmese capital had no comment.

In Bangkok, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chet Sucharitkun said the ministry has not yet received any report about the arrests or killing of 50 Burmese students by the ruling junta.

"Although we have not heard such a report, we would say that this is rather impossible, for the Burmese leader promised safety for students returning to Burma through Thailand.

"There might be some misinformation," Mr Chet said.

It is not certain whether the 50 students mentioned by the US are those who returned to Burma via Thailand.

"I don't think it's true," Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Gen Sunthon Khongsomphonng said when asked to comment on the US allegation, adding that he had not received any reports on the matter.

Gen Sunthon said Thailand had not made any enquiries into the allegations because such a move would amount to interfering in Burma's internal affairs.

He said the students that returned to Burma through Thailand went back willingly. "No one forced them," he said.

Gen Sunthon said that during Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's visit to Rangoon and meeting with Burmese leader Gen Saw Maung, assurances were given the students would not be harmed.

The general said he did not think a person of Gen Saw Maung's level and status would break his promise.

He said if Burmese officials were really killing students on their return, the Thai Embassy in Rangoon would have reported the matter.

Nearly 1,900 students have surrendered to Burmese officials at reception camps in Burma since the guarantee of safe return, with more than 150 going back under a joint Burmese-Thai repatriation programme.

An unknown number of students have returned to their homes quietly, informed sources in Rangoon said.

Spokesmen for the military government have consistently denied reports of students being killed since the coup, but one military spokesman said at a press conference in Rangoon last month that action could be taken against students who had committed criminal acts.

Students who fail to arrive at the reception camps before the end of this month are to be treated as "insurgents," the junta has said.

Some of the fugitive students have received arms training as well as shelter with ethnic minority Burmese rebels.

The ABSDF [All-Burma Students Democratic Front] and some dozen ethnic insurgencies already allied against Rangoon since Burmese independence in 1948 formed a new group calling itself the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) in November.

Leaders of the All-Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), an umbrella group claiming membership of some 9,000 students who have taken refuge on the Thai-Burmese border, on Thursday appealed for help from US president-elect George Bush.

A statement released by the ABSDF Thursday claimed:

"Those who return home through the jungle have never been seen again. They have been tortured for information about our camps until they die."

Some 1,000 people, including students, were killed by Burmese security troops during a mass pro-democracy uprising that was crushed by the coup, diplomats have said.

The country had been paralysed by two months of protests and strikes calling for an end to a 26-year-old military-backed regime.

On taking over the junta promised to hold multiparty elections and surrender power to the winning party after law and order are restored.

Western countries have imposed a virtual aid embargo and restricted diplomatic relations to a minimum to express disapproval of the killing of unarmed protesters, diplomats said.

Western diplomats in Rangoon said yesterday they were likely to keep their distance from the military regime, while maintaining recognition of Burma as a state, at least until general elections are held.

Western ambassadors boycotted Burmese Independence Day celebrations on Wednesday in a gesture seen as a clear slight to the junta after a fullsome diplomatic turnout at a funeral for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's mother on Monday.

Officers Deny U.S. Reports

BK0601152189 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Information officers of the State Law and Order Restoration Council held the 20th news conference with local and foreign correspondents in Burma at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

At the news conference, the information officers explained the untrue and provocative reports about Burma which have been carried by some foreign broadcasting stations and the U.S. Government, thereby interfering in the internal affairs of Burma.

First, this morning's broadcasts of the BBC and VOA were read out to inform the journalists. In its 0630 broadcast today, VOA carried the headline: U.S. to investigate reports of possible deaths of some students while under custody. The United States is investigating reports that some students, who fled after the military coup in September, may have died while under custody after their return to Burma. Phyllis Oakley, the State Department spokeswoman, said the United States was concerned about these credible reports and that efforts would be made to establish what actually happened. Following the 18 September military coup and subsequent bloodshed in suppressing the pro-democracy demonstrations in Rangoon, thousands of students fled to insurgent-controlled border areas. The U.S. State Department has announced that it does not know how many Burmese students were arrested or have died while under custody after their return to Burma.

The Burmese Government recently opened a relief camp in Thailand to assist the Burmese students to return home. The government had announced that students who failed to return home after the 31 January deadline would be regarded as insurgents, said VOA.

Similarly, at 0640 today, the BBC carried a report headlined: the U.S. Embassy has urged the Burmese authorities to investigate the deaths of students under custody. The report said the U.S. State Department in Washington announced that it had urged its embassy in Burma to investigate reports about the deaths of antigovernment students while under government custody. These students were from one of the groups which fled to Thailand after their rebellion against the Army in September was defeated. They returned under the amnesty. The U.S. State Department said that according to credible reports, the students were arrested upon their return and that they died while under military custody. It was not known how many died and there was no evidence about the deaths. However, the embassy in Rangoon has

already expressed the U.S. concern and is to continue efforts for an investigation into the matter, reported the BBC quoting the U.S. State Department.

Continuing, the information officers said they did not believe there was any need for a U.S. investigation as they are working openly and correctly. Rumors about the killing of student returnees have already been denied during previous news conferences. The journalists themselves had observed and investigated and found the reports to be groundless. The matter had been explained and clarified. Despite this, foreign broadcast stations say the matter is being investigated as there are credible reports. Such a description of the matter amounts to a deliberate and ill-intentioned attempt to hamper the program aimed at enabling the students to return to their parents and to make the students remain in the hands of the insurgents. It is to make students who are under the control of the insurgents give up the desire to set themselves free from the insurgents. It is possible that such broadcasts are premeditated because if the students remain with the insurgents, there is an excuse to provide external assistance.

Before the report was broadcast this morning, the BBC on 4 January carried a report quoting an article by (Andrew Doman) in THE OBSERVER on 1 January saying that (Griffith), who is close to well-known persons in the U.S., visited Manerplaw camp as a guest of Bo Mya, leader of the Karen National Union [KNU] insurgents and pledged to obtain \$500,000 for Burma's cause for democracy. If this report is related to today's report on the planned investigation, then their unscrupulous intention is clear.

As the journalists know, we sent back all the students who arrived at reception centers as quickly as possible to their parents. The students who returned under the arrangement with the Thai Government have also been sent back to their parent's homes. [passage omitted]

The radio, television, and newspapers have already reported on arrangements to send back students to their parents, and the press has carried many pictures. Contrary to these slanderous reports spread by unscrupulous persons about us killing the student returnees, there have been absolutely no instances of the authorities concerned calling in students for interrogation or arresting them after they have been handed back to their parents. We keep records of students who have been sent back, but we did not conduct any interrogations when they returned to the student-youth reception centers. We only listened and recorded what they had to say of their own volition.

We believe such untrue and dishonest broadcasts by the BBC and the VOA at a time when the deadline for students to return from the border areas had been extended by another month by us with compassion is aimed at hampering the momentum of the program aimed at enabling the students to return to their parents and at increasing the strength of the insurgents.

The journalists who have attended the previous 19 news conferences know whether our releases are true or not. A Malaysian radio broadcast of 5 January at 2100 contains untrue and dishonest accusations.

The broadcast from Malaysia carried a report headlined: Appeal by the All Burma Students Democratic Front [ABSDF] to the U.S. President. It said according to an AFP report the ABSDF—an organization based at the Thai-Burma border—has appealed for help from U.S. President-Elect Mr George Bush and the American people.

In the letter of appeal to Mr Bush, it was said that some 9,000 students had taken shelter in the jungle hideouts of ethnic insurgents and that if they were to go back to Rangoon, they would not live long. They said that when they return to Rangoon they would be taken away by intelligence agents who would take them away from home and torture them. This was reported in the Malaysian broadcast.

A person referred to in that report, Tun Aung Gyaw, actually does not represent students. He is simply a KNU henchman put up as a puppet leader in the ABSDF by the KNU, according to students who have returned. Tun Aung Gyaw is no longer a student. He is a freelance video photographer. He is a convict who was imprisoned after the 1974 affair for incitement.

As mentioned earlier, we are handling our internal affairs in the best, gentlest, and most refined manner as time and circumstances allow and there has been a noticeable improvement in the situation. The U.S. interference by means of the VOA at this time is not appropriate and could have an adverse effect on students and youths and the parents of students. It is like (?extending) a bamboo pole to a drowning person. In fact, the American government has not said anything to us about this matter, and even if they did they say anything, we would have no reason to accept what they say as it amounts to interference. We are not a disciple of any country—a fact that is well known to the world. The State Law and Order Restoration Council maintains friendly relations with the countries of the world in accordance with its announcement. We will not interfere in affairs of other countries and we will not tolerate any interference and issuing of orders to us.

On the situation on returning students, it was disclosed that as of 30 December, 1,790 had returned and 139 more arrived between 31 December and 5 January. Hence, as of 5 January, 1,929 students and youths had returned.

The information officers disclosed to the journalists that a plane would be dispatched on 7 January—tomorrow—to Tak Province in Thailand to receive and transport students who will be returning with assistance from the Thai Government. Some of the journalists would be sent

on the plane to Tak to enable them to witness it for themselves. Other journalists would also be given a chance to travel in the plane at a later date. [passage omitted]

Arrangements will be made for teams of journalists to visit the student returnees at their homes and we would like the journalists to interview the students on how we treated them and took care of them. We would also like them to ask the parents of the students. We request the journalists to report objectively on what they see and hear. [passage omitted]

The news conference ended at 1400. It was learned that after the press conference, local and foreign journalists travelled in cars provided by the information committee to visit the homes of students who have returned in the Rangoon Development Area to meet with student returnees, their parents, relatives, and friends.

26 Students Return From Thai Camp

BK0701142489 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The fourth batch of 26 students from the students reception camp in Thailand's Tak Province left for Burma at 1230 local time in a special plane dispatched by Burma. [passage omitted] The plane also carried a team of local and foreign journalists led by U Soe Nyunt, managing director of the News and Periodicals Trade Corporation. The journalists observed the care given to the students and boarding and medical facilities at the camp.

Before returning in the same plane, the journalists, responding to questions from journalists in Thailand, said what had been said at the news conference was true and that they found the students were in no danger when they visited them at their homes.

Under the cooperation between the Burma Red Cross and the Thai Red Cross under an agreement between the Burmese Government and the Thai Government, 26 Burmese students and youths returned to Rangoon from the Tak Province reception camp in Thailand at 1315 today in a special plane dispatched from Burma. The fourth batch of students were welcomed at the 502d Air Force Base airport by Brigadier General Myo Nyunt, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and Rangoon military commander; Dr Tin U, deputy chairman of the Burma Red Cross and director general of the Health Department; Colonel Ket Sein, deputy commander of the Rangoon Military Command; Colonel Maung Maung, commander of the 502d Air Force Base; Lieutenant Colonel Tin Pe, Ministry of Information; Lieutenant Colonel Than Tun, deputy director of the Defense Services Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense; U Kyaw San and U Thein Swe, members of the SLORC Information Committee; U

Aung, director general of the Department of Immigration and Manpower; foreign and local correspondents led by U Hla Tan, director of the News and Periodicals Trade Corporation; and 200 Red Cross members. [passage omitted]

The local and foreign journalists and members of the SLORC Information Committee met with the returning students and youths and their parents and guardians at the reception hall. In answering the journalists' questions, the students and youths said they had returned to the motherland of their own free will, the Thai side told them they could go back of their own free will or they could stay on if they did not want to go back. The food and living conditions at the Tak reception camp were sufficient and the Thai Red Cross took special care of them in providing medical and boarding facilities. They said they were indeed very good neighbors.

Troops Sent To Protect Border Trade Route

BK0901094089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 9 (AFP)—Rangoon's military government has sent reinforcements to guard a trade route between its southeastern Moulmein township and the Thai border in an area heavily infiltrated by Karen guerillas, a guerrilla source said Monday [9 January].

The source, a member of the ethnic minority guerillas of the Karen National Union (KNU) based on the Burmese-Thai border, said about 1,000 Burmese soldiers had been stationed along a road connecting Moulmein with Myawadi border township to protect Thai traders using the route.

The source said the troops from the 66th and 44th Divisions had set up regular mobile patrols with jeeps and military trucks on the strategic route which runs through Kyondo and Kawkarik townships.

Burmese and Thai authorities recently opened border checkpoints at Myawadi and Thailand's Mae Sot border township to facilitate travel and promote cross-border trade between Thai and Burmese traders, the source said.

He said Rangoon authorities wanted to maintain a safe trade route to enable Thai traders to conduct business transactions "deeper inside Burma".

"But the Karens would continue to intercept all goods transported through Karen territory," the source said.

The KNU 7th Division commander Lieutenant Colonel Than Maung was quoted as saying that eight Burmese soldiers, part of a unit guarding a section of the route at Ban Mai village, were killed early last week in an ambush by Karen guerrillas about 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the border.

The source said several Burmese Army divisions were now poised to attack the KNU's main border stronghold at Klerdey camp, following their successful three-month long battle September 26-December 24 with the Karens which led to the capture of the KNU's strategic border village of Methawe.

Patriotic People's Parliamentary Party Registers
BK0701094989 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The Patriotic People Parliamentary Party, which has its headquarters at Room No 9, No 62-A, Po Sein Road, Tamwe Road, Rangoon Division, has been permitted to register as of 6 January in accordance with Section 5A of the Political Parties Registration Law. This was announced in Announcement No 182 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections.

The Patriotic People Parliamentary Party has been formed with the following Central Executive Committee:

Chairman: U Ye Htut Hla;

Vice Chairman: Daw Myint Myint;

Secretary: U Than U;

Members: U Than Myint; U Hlaing; U Aung San; and U Aung Than.

Commission Announces Registration of 180 Parties
BK0701092889 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 6 Jan 89

["Press Release No 15/89 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 6 January—the last day of the waning moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] As of 3 January 1989, a total of 177 political parties had registered with this commission in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law. The following political parties were allowed to register today—6 January:

1. Patriotic People's Parliamentary Party;
2. National League for Democracy Justice; and
3. All Burma Liberated Women's Organization.

As of today, a total of 180 political parties have registered with this commission under the Political Parties Registration Law.

More Political Parties Announce Platforms

Shan State Kachin Democrats

BK0101091789 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 31 Dec 88

["Press Release No 189/88 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 31 December—the 8th day of the waning moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Shan State Kachin Democratic Party, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 206, Minlan Street, Kutkai, Shan State.

2. Aims

A. To establish a genuine democratic state which represents all national people of the Union.

B. To have representatives who genuinely represent the Kachin nationals in the Shan State.

C. To train and nurture all Kachin nationals to enable them to understand the promotion of democracy and the democratic spirit.

3. Programs

A. To organize Kachin nationals living in the Shan State to participate in the establishment of a free and just democratic state.

B. To support and assist other political organizations with identical policies and convictions.

C. To make the utmost efforts in endeavors for the social, economic, and health development of the national people in the Union.

Progressive New Burma Party

BK0201090489 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 1 Jan 89

["Press Release No 1/89 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, Union of Burma, dated 1 January—the 9th day of the waning moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Progressive New Burma Party, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has moved its headquarters to No 535, Prome Road, No 8 Ward, Kamayut Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims

A. To strive for equality and unity among all the national groups within the country and to build a stable and strong nation.

- B. To work to make the majority of people understand the essence of democracy with the aim of developing and perpetuating a democracy that is genuinely based on the interests of all the people; and at the same time to work to make the people respect, abide by, and practice democracy.
- C. To practice an active and independent foreign policy.
- D. To strive to attain without fail peace at home and the world over so that the entire people in the Union can live in peace.
- E. To protect the national interests to ensure that the Union will not return to the life of a vassal state.

3. Programs

- A. To strive eternally in the interests of the workers and the peasants—the main social classes.
- B. To strive to develop a people's democratic education system.
- C. To further develop and modernize the social life of women.
- D. To establish a national economy that is free, just, and independent.
- E. To work towards the emergence of an all-round efficient and modern Defense Force.
- F. To work closely on topics of mutual concern with fraternal organizations that will run in the elections.

Kuki Chin National Unity Party

BK0701104189 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 6 Jan 89

["Press Release No 13/89 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 6 January—the day of the new moon of Nadaw, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Kuki Chin National Unity Party, which has registered with this Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters in Myenigon Ward, Homalin, Sagaing Division.

2. Aims

- A. To live in harmony with other national people while establishing the unity of Kuki Chin nationals.
- B. To strive for all national people to obtain freedom of worship according to their respective religions.
- C. To carry out organizational work so as to contribute to the perpetuation of the country's independence.
- D. To strive for the practice of multiparty democratic administration.
- E. To strive for all national people to enjoy full human rights.

3. Programs

- A. To obtain unity with other national people while striving for the unity of Kuki Chin nationals and to strive for the perpetuation of the country's independence, peace and prosperity and the emergence of a genuinely democratic administration and parties.
- B. To strive for freedom in development and the practice of the customs and traditions of Kuki Chin nationals.
- C. To seek special assistance for national people of underdeveloped areas from the government which will come into power.
- D. To strive for all national people of the Union to enjoy genuine democratic and human rights on an equal basis.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Briefs Press on Early SRV Pullout
BK0601160989 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1440 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 6—"All Vietnamese volunteer troops will repatriate from Kampuchea this September if a political solution to the Kampuchean issue is achieved."

This statement was made by Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, in a press briefing held in Phnom Penh this morning after the grand meeting marking the PRK's 10th national day.

Chairman Hun Sen affirmed that the framework for a political solution to the Kampuchean conflict must be based on the two interlinked issues: the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops and the cessation of military aid to the Khmer opposition factions. "A guarantee for this should be found so as to effect an [words indistinct] pullout of all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea," Hun Sen said, adding that "nine months is not a long period so it is necessary to work against the time to reach an agreement."

"If an eventual all-embracing agreement is not yet reached," he said, "then an agreement on the international aspects of the Kampuchean issue, namely the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and the cessation of foreign aid to Khmer opposition factions should be concluded."

Chairman Hun Sen said that supporters of the tripartite Khmer coalition have agreed to sever their aid if Vietnamese troops repatriate from Kampuchea. "Only the tripartite Khmer coalition has rejected the two interlinked issues in a political solution to the Kampuchean issue and is seeking to postpone the holding of JIM-2 [second Jakarta informal meeting]," he said.

Chairman Hun Sen called on Indonesia and other ASEAN member countries to make further efforts to organize JIM-2 whether the three Khmer opposition factions will attend, or not. He said: "ASEAN countries, Vietnam, Laos and the PRK government are enough to conclude an agreement on the pullout of Vietnamese

troops from Kampuchea and the cessation of foreign aid to the Khmer opposition faction. Now, we have entered the 'area of penalty.' This means that Vietnamese troops will continue to pull out whether there is a political solution or not, then there will be no more negotiations." Hun Sen blamed Sihanouk and the other Khmer factions for the failure to reach a political solution due to their hindrance to the process of negotiations.

"Would they really want Vietnam to pull all of its troops from Kampuchea, they would make joint efforts in the search for an early conclusion of such an agreement," Hun Sen said.

Further on Hun Sen Statement

BK0601130989 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1100 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] At 1115 today, after the grand meeting marking the 10th anniversary of the PRK's 7 January national day, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, and foreign minister, issued a press statement to local and foreign journalists on the timetable for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops. Here is the essence of the press statement.

[Begin Hun Sen recording] Dear ladies, gentlemen, and friends: This is not a news conference but a short announcement following the speech by our chairman of the Council of State. You have heard the points from this morning's address. What I would like to emphasize to you now is the shortening of the period for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops within the framework of a political solution.

At the informal meeting in Jakarta and in Paris, we put forth a proposal that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops should at the end of 1989 or in the first quarter of 1990. Now we have shortened this timeframe to September 1989. This means that there are only 9 months left before Vietnamese troops leave Cambodia if there is a political solution. Why do we have to shorten this timeframe? This is the latest bullet fired in the penalty shootout. After fighting diplomatically for some time, we know the strength of all parties. At the informal meeting in Jakarta, the six ASEAN countries, including Thailand, promised that they would end their assistance to the opposing Cambodian sides if Vietnam put forth a calendar for withdrawing Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

In Beijing, the green light was given saying that assistance will be stopped for the Pol Pot group and the three parties if Vietnam puts forth a firm calendar on withdrawing its troops from Cambodia.

Thus, all concerned parties have realized and considered that the framework for a political solution which has been found is the linking of the Vietnamese troop pullout with the end of assistance to opposing Cambodian groups. We need this kind of guarantee to carry out a

speedy withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. If a general agreement on Cambodia's internal affairs cannot be reached yet, an agreement on the international aspect of the issue, including the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the end of outside military assistance, should be sought.

Now those who provide assistance to the three Cambodian groups have agreed to end their assistance if Vietnam withdraw. Only the three groups at the receiving end of this assistance have not yet agreed on the linking of these two aspects. In this sense, Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge, and Son Sann have tried to delay the second informal meeting in Jakarta. We understand and appeal to Indonesia and the ASEAN countries to make efforts to convene this meeting in February as planned even without the participation of the three Cambodian groups. The six ASEAN countries, Vietnam, Laos, and the PRK side are more than enough to reach an agreement on withdrawing the Vietnamese troops and the end of assistance.

Now we have moved forward, and as I said earlier, we are now into the penalty shootout, and I have taken the first shot. If the other side refuses to join in the game, I will take all five shots at goal myself—meaning that if there is no political solution, Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn from Cambodia and by then, it is possible that there will no longer be any negotiations. Delay of a political solution or delay in negotiations are the fault of Sihanouk and the other side which have tried to impose conditions to kill the negotiations. Sihanouk has forced us to accept his five conditions before he negotiates. This is a strange negotiating method, negotiating Sihanouk style.

I would like to inform you that we are not prisoners of war who are waiting orders from those who are victorious. We are a party with the right to put forward anything for discussion, for the other side to discuss. We are ready to discuss the other side's position. We do not accept Sihanouk's conditions and this calls for the need to negotiate. If I had already accepted, there would be no need to discuss. However, what Sihanouk proposed is a new and strange method which is unprecedented in the history of international practice. Forcing me to dissolve the government before negotiating. This is strange.

Now, the time when Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn is not far off. If people want to find a solution, if people really want Vietnam to pull out from Cambodia, they will certainly find a quick solution. We wait and see what is the attitude of the other parties toward our position.

[Largely indistinct question in English by an unidentified foreign correspondent followed by Cambodian translation] What is the significance of the presence of former prime minister In Tam here today?

[Hun Sen] I am sure there will be surprise at the presence of In Tam, former prime minister of the Khmer Republic. For the Cambodian people, this is not surprising

because it is our Cambodian policy of national reconciliation. The Pol Pot clique, including Samdech Sihanouk, sentenced In Tam to death in 1975 before the Lon Nol regime was toppled. Now he has no other political principle than sympathy and compassion for the nation and the people. In this sense, we have the duty to honor him and we hope that he will contribute to building the Cambodian land. We will implement this policy toward other personalities as well.

[Largely indistinct question in French by an unidentified female foreign correspondent followed by Cambodian translation] Prime Minister, what is your view of troop withdrawal under effective international control?

[Hun Sen] This issue is necessary. When there is agreement on a political solution, there should be an international guarantee and international control. International control here most importantly is aimed at ensuring the points agreed upon. However, it is known that any international control cannot be above the Cambodian Government. International control, no matter under what form, should be under the Cambodian Government's authority. It should not be an occupation force.

[Largely indistinct question in English by an unidentified foreign correspondent followed by Cambodian translation] Can you specify when Cambodia and Vietnam decided to effect the last troop pullout?

[Hun Sen] We discussed it for a fair length of time. However, the official decision was at 1430 yesterday when the two countries' heads of party and heads of state met.

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent in English] Can you clarify one of your earlier statements. Does this mean that you will now begin the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and continue to withdraw them until September and they will all be gone even if there is no political settlement?

[Hun Sen] I said this withdrawal is within the framework of a political solution. If there is no political solution, it will be the end of 1990. Those who really want Vietnam to withdraw should not be afraid of taking part in signing an agreement so that Vietnam withdraws.

[Indistinct question followed by Cambodia translation] Can we expect a political solution this year and does the prime minister expect anything at the next meeting in Bogor?

[Hun Sen] I think what we can achieve in Bogor is the timetable of the Vietnamese troop pullout and that of the end of assistance. This is a point already agreed upon. In Bogor, it was agreed that the Vietnamese troop withdrawal is linked to the end of military assistance to opposing Cambodian forces. Now China has also linked the Vietnamese troop pullout with the end of its assistance to opposing Cambodian forces. As for the time of the Vietnamese troop pullout, we can do this 3 months

before Sihanouk's date. Sihanouk demanded that this be done at the end of 1989, but we can do this in September 1989. China demanded June 1989 but later said it will extend this to the end of the year. Now we propose September. This seems reasonable with China's stand. Therefore, in Bogor or at the second informal meeting, there will be results.

[Indistinct question followed by Cambodian translation] How many Vietnamese troops are there in Cambodia now?

[Hun Sen] Less than 50,000. Let us say 50,000 to round up the figure. And if there is no political solution, there are 2 more years which are enough for us to build up a 50,000-strong force to replace the Vietnamese Army. Then, we will take all the five penalty shots for ourselves without any need to negotiate.

[Indistinct question followed by Cambodian translation] Is the proposal setting the time of the withdrawal a message to Sihanouk to enter into negotiations?

[Hun Sen] This is not just for Sihanouk alone but for many other parties, including China and Thailand. And you may have known already, Prime Minister Chatchai has invited me and would welcome me to visit Bangkok. Now I have already stated my intention and am now finding a channel to go to Bangkok.

The negotiations between the Soviet Union and China are taking place. Furthermore, concerned parties are also increasing their efforts around the issue. As for Sihanouk, whether he listens or not, it is his business. It will be 10 years tomorrow without Sihanouk. We are ready to accept Sihanouk but categorically reject him if he brings along Pol Pot. He shouted in Paris that fighting will continue. I do not want to use time to pressure Sihanouk. I want to negotiate to end the conflict and the Cambodian people's suffering. [end recording]

Interview With Former Prime Minister In Tam
BK0701115989 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1121 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 7—"I fully support the PRK's policy of national reconciliation. As Vietnam is withdrawing its troops from Kampuchea, for the Kampuchean people I think it is necessary to cope carefully with the Khmer Rouge forces to avert an eventual civil war," said In Tam, a former high-ranking official under the Sihanouk and Lon Nol regimes.

Mr In Tam, 72, who was head of Takeo Province and then minister of interior in the Sihanouk regime and prime minister in the Lon Nol time, is now leading the "Khmer Amatak" Association of Overseas Kampuchians in France. He arrived in Phnom Penh Tuesday afternoon for a visit to Kampuchea at the invitation of the PRK's Foreign Ministry.

In an interview with an SPK correspondent on Wednesday morning, Mr In Tam, after recollecting his life from the downfall of the Lon Nol regime to his present asylum in France, said: "I'm keen on awaiting for a national reconciliation among all Khmers except the Khmer Rouge followers. Now, I believe that Vietnam is withdrawing its troops, stage by stage, from Kampuchea, but my heart is not at peace as I still feel a deep concern about the reemergence of the Khmer Rouge Pol Potists."

"To me," he said, "I don't trust Khmer Rouge at all. The PRK's stance is to prevent the return of armed Khmer Rouge followers in general elections in which all political parties will take part. I myself support this stance. The Khmer Rouge's Pol Potists have resorted to perfidious tricks. Only with strong military strength and ardent support and assistance from the entire people can the PRK Government bring pressure to bear upon the Khmer Rouge Pol Potists. However, we should stand alert against the Khmer Rouge when all Vietnamese troops repatriate from Kampuchea so that we can prevent the outbreak of civil war. In short, I support measures taken by the PRK's Government to achieve national reconciliation."

Mr In Tam continued:

"I do hope that some progress will be made after the previous round of talks. The Khmer warring factions should settle the Kampuchean problem by themselves. They should not wait for the dictate of outside forces. They should not support Khmer Rouge to return to Kampuchea militarily as they can never forget what it has done against the Kampuchean people. To me I consider the question of Vietnamese troops' presence in Kampuchea less important than that of Khmer Rouge's recurrence in the country."

On the issue of Khmer refugees along the Thai-Kampuchean border, Mr In Tam said:

"The Kampuchean refugees have been used as cannon fodder by the Pol Potists. They are subjected to untold suffering in such a foreign country as Thailand. Freedom is a private matter. I dare not blame or criticize authorized bodies and services or any UN agencies. My wish is to put an early end to the war so that they can repatriate soon."

Mr In Tam recalled what he had witnessed since his arrival here by car through the Kampuchean provinces of Svay Rieng, Prey Veng and Kandal. He said: "When crossing the border, I saw many people with conical palm hats harvesting rice along the highways. I thought that they were Vietnamese but when my car paused and I had a talk with them, it turned out that they were all of Khmer origin."

In conclusion, he said:

"Almost all people of my generation died under Pol Pot regime. Now young people of whom I have acquired very little knowledge are living under the new regime which is quite different from the previous ones. I see the life here full of hope. The Khmers living either in the country or abroad should join and accelerate the course of things here," he added.

VNA Cites Interview

BK0901075289 Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT
8 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 8—"I fully support the PRK's policy of national reconciliation. If Vietnam is withdrawing its troops from Kampuchea, for the Kampuchean people, I think, it is necessary to cope carefully with the Khmer Rouge forces to avert an eventual civil war," said In Tam, a former high-ranking official under the Sihanouk and Lon Nol regimes.

In Tam, 72, who was head of Takeo Province and then minister of interior in the Sihanouk regime and prime minister in the Lon Nol time, is now leading the Khmer Amatak Association of Overseas Kampuchians in France. He arrived in Phnom Penh Tuesday [3 January] afternoon for a visit to Kampuchea at the invitation of the PRK's Foreign Ministry.

In an interview with an SPK correspondent on Wednesday morning In Tam said: "I am longing for national reconciliation among all Khmers except the Khmer Rouge. Now, I believe that Vietnam is really withdrawing its troops stage by stage from Kampuchea but my heart is not at peace as I still feel deep concern about the reemergence of the Khmer Rouge Polpotists."

"To me," he said, "I don't trust the Khmer Rouge at all. The PRK's stance is to prevent the return of armed Khmer Rouge forces in the general elections in which all political parties will take part. I myself support this stance. The Polpotist Khmer Rouge have resorted to perfidious tricks. Only with strong military strength and ardent support and assistance from the entire people can the PRK government bring the pressure to bear upon them. However, we should stand alert against the Khmer Rouge after all Vietnamese troops have repatriated from Kampuchea so that we can prevent the outbreak of a civil war. In short, I support measures taken by the PRK Government to achieve national reconciliation."

In Tam continues:

"I do hope that some progress would be made after the previous round of talks. The warring Khmer factions should settle the Kampuchean problem by themselves. They should not wait for the dictate of outside forces. They should prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to Kampuchea militarily as they should never forget what it

has done to the Kampuchean people. To me, I consider the problem of Vietnamese troops' presence in Kampuchea less important than that of the Khmer Rouge's comeback."

On the issue of Khmer refugees along the Thai-Kampuchean border, In Tam said:

"The Kampuchean refugees have been used as cannon fodder by the Polpotists. They are subjected to untold sufferings in Thailand. I shall not blame or criticize the authorized bodies and services or any UN agencies. My wish is to put an early end to the war so that they can be repatriated soon."

In Tam recalled what he had witnessed since his arrival here by car through the Kampuchean provinces of Svay Rieng, Prey Veng and Kandal. He said: "When crossing the border, I saw many people with conical palm hats harvesting rice along the highways. I thought that they were Vietnamese but when my car stopped and I had a talk with them, it turned out that they were all Khmers."

In conclusion he said:

"Almost all people of my generations died under the Pol Pot regime. Now young people of whom I have very little knowledge are living under the new regime which is quite different from the previous ones. I see that life here is full of hope. The Khmers living either in the country or abroad should join hands and accelerate this process."

PK Reviews Achievements of Past 10 Years

BK0701123589 Phnom Penh SPK in English

1104 GMT 7 Jan 89

["Kampuchea Looks Forward To Bright Future"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 7—"January 7" has gone down in the Kampuchean nation's history as a glorious anniversary. This day 10 years ago, the world witnessed the utter collapse of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and the emergence of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Today when making a retrospective look at the past, the Kampuchean people cannot help but recalling the horrendous genocidal crimes committed by the Pol Pot clique during its reign in Kampuchea from 1975-78. The so-called "Democratic Kampuchea," a hectic follower of Maoism, pushed the country to the brink of extermination: Over three million Kampucheans were massacred, and 635,000 houses, 1970 pagodas, 108 mosques, 5,860 schools, 800 hospitals and dispensaries destroyed.

The People's Republic of Kampuchea, in spite of numerous difficulties and obstacles, has shown its tremendous vitality over the past 10 years. The people's administration set up at all levels through free and democratic

elections has been constantly strengthened. The revolutionary armed forces have matured and they are now capable of performing their task of national defence. From scratch, the PRK has made rapid and steady progress in economic construction and in the improvement of the people's living conditions. Many incentive measures have been worked out to accelerate the country's socio-economic restoration and development while the PRK's policy of national reconciliation has been warmly welcomed and supported by the public at home and abroad. Over the past years, Kampuchea has annually produced an average of 1.8 million tons of paddy and a good volume of commodities for the people's daily life. More than 5,200 colleges and schools have been opened in Phnom Penh and other localities across the country. Changes for the better are taking place with every passing day.

In these festive days, the Kampuchean people are greatly indebted to Vietnamese Army volunteers who have saved them from the danger of Pol Pot's genocide and now assisting Kampuchea in national rehabilitation and in the fight against the recurrence of the Khmer Rouge regime.

We deeply thank the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, the other fraternal and friendly countries, and the international organizations which have made valuable contributions to the Kampuchean people's national revival and development.

Glory belongs to the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, the organizer of all victories of the Kampuchean people. Glory belongs to the United Front for National Construction and Defence, a unity bloc of all Kampuchean people from all walks of life. Glory belongs to the Kampuchean Revolutionary Armed Forces which, in close coordination with the entire people and the Vietnamese volunteer army, are defending the peaceful life of the Kampuchean people and the revolutionary gains from the enemy's sabotage.

In face of our growing strength, the enemy has sought to contain our advance. They are trying by all means to hinder the process of dialogue in search for a political solution to the Kampuchean conflict, deliberately prolonging the bloodshed and the people's suffering in the country.

The PRK, which is effectively handling all external and internal affairs of the country, has always shown its good will to settle the issue of peace, stability and cooperation in Kampuchea and in Southeast Asia. It is determined to carry out the policy of national reconciliation in the interests of the Kampuchean people.

With the growing strength of the Kampuchean Revolutionary Armed Forces, with the special alliance between Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos, and with the support and assistance of the fraternal and friendly countries, especially

the Soviet Union, the Kampuchean people will certainly win total victory in their just struggle for peace, national independence, freedom and social progress.

Editorial Praises Spirit of 7 January
*BK0901045589 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 5 Jan 89*

[Station editorial: "Always Hold Aloft the Glorious 7 January Spirit"]

[Text] This year, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 7 January national day at a time when the Cambodian revolution is in the position of strength and victory—the firm foundation for advance toward achieving greater victories in the cause of national defense and construction.

The date 7 January 1979 is the most glorious day in the history of Cambodia. It is the day when the Cambodian people from all walks of life rose up simultaneously, in harmonious unity under the victorious banner of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] and in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Army volunteers, attacked and toppled the Democratic Kampuchean regime, liberated the Cambodian people and motherland from the genocidal danger, and established the PRK.

The past 10 years were just a short period for the Cambodian motherland which has a millennial history, but it was a period of arduous struggle to defend the motherland and the revolutionary gains.

Our people of all nationalities, harmoniously united under the leadership of the KPRP, have gradually healed the wounds left behind by the genocidal regime and successfully frustrated the enemy's perfidious maneuvers and schemes to topple our young PRK regime.

At present, we are effectively applying the combined forces, combined measures, and combined activities, thus causing our Cambodian revolutionary cause to advance firmly.

In the field of defense, our armed forces have developed quantitatively and qualitatively and are gradually advancing toward independently taking over the tasks of national defense in place of the repatriating Vietnamese Army volunteers who have fulfilled their proletarian internationalist duties in Cambodia.

The regular, regional, and militia units have sufficient combat strength and capabilities to defend localities and the motherland and have scored successive victories on the battlefields, both along the Cambodian-Thai border and inside the country, thus frustrating all maneuvers of the enemies of all stripes.

In the field of security and public order, the people's police units throughout the country have scored brilliant feats by timely and effectively cracking down upon all

political and economic sabotage of the enemies, thus successfully ensuring public order and security for the people. At the same time, our people in all localities have had more confidence in the party's leadership and have voluntarily sent their sons and husbands to serve the army, joined in carrying out national defense labor and proselytization movement, and strived to build firm villages and communes.

Gradual progress has also been made in the fields of economy, social affairs, and culture. The people's livelihood has been increasingly improved.

The building of genuine revolutionary forces has been strengthened and expanded to localities and their quantity and quality have been increased gradually.

The national reconciliation policy and the seven-point statement of the PRK have been warmly supported and welcomed by national and international public and the three meetings in France between Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk, particularly the Jakarta Informal Meeting in July 1988, have been positively valued by the broad international opinion.

Although the past meetings of the opposing Cambodian groups to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem have not brought about any big success, the important point is that they have broken through the deadlock which has dragged on for 10 years and brought about the start of a serious discussion on a solution to the problem. This is a success that has increasingly enhanced the PRK's prestige in the international arena.

Meanwhile, the enemy's advantage and strength have dwindled and its tripartite alliance has been shaken increasingly, and the trend demanding the elimination of criminal Pol Pot and his close associates is seen everywhere in the world. Increasing numbers of persons who have been misled by the enemy have repented and returned to live with their families and the national society.

The great feats scored over the past 10 years are our greatest pride. The success of the clear-sighted lines of the KPRP and the PRK state is attributable to the persistent, arduous, and patient efforts made jointly by cadres, party members, Armed Forces, and all people, to the invaluable assistance given us by the Vietnamese and Lao peoples, and to the valuable support and assistance of the Soviet Union, the socialist community, and peace- and justice-loving progressive forces in the world. The success is really a brilliant symbol of victory of the national forces coupling with the contemporary forces.

This year, 1989, is the key year that the Cambodian revolution's innate forces must independently take responsibility for the national defense tasks by themselves. For this reason, our entire party, Armed Forces, and people must firmly grasp the situation, conditions of

the revolutionary tasks in this new stage, and the principles regarding the various important tasks; clearly see the true nature of the complicated revolutionary struggle to be carried out tensely and resolutely between us and the enemy; clearly differentiate friends from foes; enhance revolutionary vigilance, and always see through and nurture hatred against the maneuvers of the enemies of all stripes, particularly Pol Pot's criminal clique and genocidal regime. It is imperative to constantly enhance firm unity and unanimity within the entire party, armed forces, and people, and on all policies and lines of the party and state; hold aloft the banner of great national union; and strive to increase to the maximum the sense of mastery, self-assistance, and confidence in one's own and the Armed Forces' strength and in our party's lines and leadership.

At the same time, it is imperative to hold aloft the banner of socialist internationalist solidarity, particularly solidarity and all-round cooperation with Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, and fraternal socialist countries; strive to overcome the remaining weak points; and actively implement with lively creativity all the annually political, economic, and social tasks to turn the resolution of the fifth party congress into practical deeds.

Primarily, it is imperative to successfully implement the three strategic goals of the revolution to further accelerate the cause of national defense and construction in all aspects.

The Armed Forces—military, police, and militia forces—must resolutely strive to expand their position of mastery both along the border and in the interior of the country, thus causing the enemy to become weaker and head toward a total doom. It is imperative to further strive to build the genuine revolutionary forces in all fields, military, political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic; mobilize all efforts to build and make the party, including the ranks of the core cadres and party chapters, genuinely strong and powerful politically, ideologically, and organizationally so that there will be sufficient forces for leading the masses in the current all-round difficult and complicated struggle.

Cadres of all levels must link closely to villages and communes, particularly those outlying remote villages and communes where the enemy is stealthily massacring the people and plundering their rice and property, and help to build and strengthen firm villages and communes.

In the immediate future, it is imperative to emulate in carrying out the tasks to attack the enemy and persuade misled persons to return to the fold; strive to timely collect the rainy-season rice yield; use food supply economically; and carry on the rainy-season rice production. Pay additional attention to the purchase of paddy from the peasants in the way that the purchase plan is fulfilled and even overfulfilled and the benefit of both sides—the state and the peasants—is ensured. In this work, it is imperative to pay attention to improving the

purchase price and increasing the sale of consumer goods to the people. The production units, factories, enterprises, and schools should vigorously stimulate emulation movement in order to increase production, enhance the sense of creativity, and improve the quality of the produce and work.

The entire party, armed forces, and people should always hold aloft the 7 January spirit, enhance their will to struggle arduously, and strive to emulate more vigorously to create even greater feats in the cause to firmly defend the Cambodian motherland and make it even more prosperous and plentiful.

Leaders Receive Foreign Guests in Phnom Penh
*BK0601144589 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[Text] At the former royal palace beginning from 1400 today, the top party and state leaders of the PRK headed by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the PRK, granted audiences to delegations from a number of socialist countries attending the celebration of the the PRK's 10th national day—7 January.

Among the delegations which paid courtesy calls were the party and state delegation of the Soviet Union led by Comrade Mrs A.P. Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; the party and state delegation of the CSSR by Comrade Stefan Murio, member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of Slovak Government; the party and state delegation of the GDR by Comrade Dr Hans-Joachim Bohme, Political Bureau member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee and first secretary of the party committee of Halle Province; the party and state delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria by Comrade Emil Khristov, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee; the party and state delegation of the Polish People's Republic by Comrade Zbigniew Michalek, Political Bureau member of the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee; and the party and state delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic by Comrade Laszlo Deak, Political Bureau member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee.

In all conversations with the foreign guests, the Cambodian side warmly welcomed the presence of the delegations at the celebration of the PRK's 10th anniversary, presence which has given more solemnity to the festival. The Cambodian side also stressed the great achievements and steady development of the PRK that can never be separated from the assistance of friendly countries. It also praised the new economic reforms in a number of socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, and the efforts to maintain economic order in Poland and Hungary.

In reply, all the friendly parties hailed the achievements and steady development of the PRK made possible thanks to the efforts of the Cambodian people, and expressed unchanged support for the solution to the Cambodian problem, particularly all the correct positions taken by the PRK. They assured the Cambodian side that they would do their best to expand cooperation with Cambodia in the cause of peace and socialism.

Reportage on Activities of Foreign Delegations

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Meeting

BK070111189 Phnom Penh SPK in French
0417 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Phnom Penh, 7 January (SPK)—“It is with great pleasure that the Vietnamese party, government, and people take note of the vigorous development of the Cambodian revolution, seeing in this an important contribution to their national defense and construction tasks and to the cause of peace and social progress in Southeast Asia and the world.”

This was stated by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, in his 6 January address to the meeting commemorating the national day (7 January).

Today's festivities represent a vivid manifestation of the Cambodian people's impressive rebirth which 10 years before, none of us, no matter how optimistic we were, could imagine. In fact, the Pol Pot crimes of a brutality unprecedented in mankind history, the grave consequences of their reign, and the frenzied efforts deployed by imperialist and reactionary forces against the Cambodian people, should be witnessed in order to justly appreciate the vitality of the Cambodian people's rebirth with their extraordinary achievements during the past 10 years. In the exercise of a legitimate right to self-defense and in response to the Cambodian people's appeal, the Vietnamese volunteer troops, in concurrence with the latter, defeated the PolPotist aggressors and overthrew their regime of genocide. Since 1982, with the PRK's agreement, Vietnam has withdrawn most of its volunteers and the total of its experts. However, the PRK still remains firm and constantly develops.

Vietnam fully agrees with the PRK on the total withdrawal of the remaining Vietnamese volunteers from Cambodia in September 1989.

The withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops should be conducted in conjunction with the cessation of foreign military aid to all the Cambodian parties and a denial of the use of foreign territory as sanctuaries against the Cambodian people. These agreements should also be implemented under an effective international control.

After praising the time-honored relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries, the Vietnamese leader committed himself to do his best to further strengthen the bonds.

SRV Delegation Visits Museum

BK0701030089 Hanoi VNA in English 1605 GMT
6 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 6—The visiting Vietnamese party and government delegation led by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh this afternoon sightsaw the Choeung-ek mass-graves and the Toul Sleng museum of genocidal crimes in Phnom Penh.

It was accompanied by General Bou Thong, Politburo Member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The delegation observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the genocidal regime. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh wrote in the guests' book of the museum these lines: “We must struggle to prevent the genocidal Khmer Rouge from returning to commit crimes again in the revived Kampuchea.”

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Exhibition

BK0801084089 Hanoi VNA in English 0725 GMT
8 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA 8 Jan—The Vietnamese party and government delegation led by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh yesterday visited an exhibition on the PRK's achievements over the past 10 years organized in Phnom Penh to honour its 10th national day.

The delegation was accompanied by Kampuchean General Bou Thang.

In the visitors' book, Nguyen Van Linh wrote: “Over the past 10 years, the People's Republic of Kampuchea has developed its economy, culture, education, health care, etc from the ashes left by the genocidal Pol Potists. I firmly believe that Kampuchea will become a developed, civilized, and modern country; and I wish you rapid development.”

LPDR Delegation Meeting in Phnom Penh

BK0701091189 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] According to a dispatch from Phnom Penh, the LPDR party and state delegation headed by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers and the PRK party and state delegation headed by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK State Council held a meeting in Phnom Penh on Thursday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting on the Lao side were Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister for foreign affairs; Comrade Major

General Ai Souli-gnaseng, member of the party Central Committee, chief of the LPA General Staff Department; Comrade Somsavat Lengsavat, first deputy minister of the Office of the Party Central Committee and first deputy chief of the Office of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Pheli Khounlalouk, LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRK.

Present at the meeting on the PRK side were Comrade Mrs Men Sam-an, member of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the party Central Committee's Organization Commission; Comrade Dit Munti, first deputy minister of the foreign ministry; and Comrade (Phol Hum), deputy chief of the Office of the Party Central Committee.

During the meeting, which proceeded in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere, Comrade Heng Samrin, on behalf of the party Central Committee and the PRK Government, welcomed and expressed wholehearted thanks to the LPDR party and state delegation for its participation in the celebration of the PRK's national day which is regarded as a great encouragement to the fraternal Cambodian party, state, army and people.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, on behalf of the Lao party, state, and people, highly appraised the great successes and victories scored by the heroic Cambodian people during the past decade. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane once again expressed his confidence that the situation in Cambodia is irreversible and the Cambodian revolution forces will continue to expand and grow bigger. In particular, they themselves play a crucial role in grasping all the victories.

USSR's Biryukova Addresses Meeting

BK0801071989 Phnom Penh SPK in French
0403 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Phnom Penh, 8 January (SPK)—"The Soviet Union vigorously supports and pledges to make as many contributions as it can to the constructive national reconciliation policy implemented by the PRK."

This was stated by Mrs A.P. Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in her address to the meeting held on 6 January to commemorate the 10th national day.

"The new important initiative put forth by the leaders of the PRK and the SRV from this rostrum today is, we think, in conjunction with the development of the current world tendency of resolving regional conflicts by political means. Undoubtedly this initiative will contribute to eliminating tension in this region, in addition to its possibilities of promoting progress by taking into account the concerned parties' and states' interests. We are confident that this concrete goodwill manifestation by the PRK and the SRV will be appreciated for its true value and will encourage responsive constructive measures.

The Soviet Union advocates a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian problem which considers the principal interests of the Cambodian people and the regional political realities. Moreover, in the USSR as in the international community, people uphold that the Cambodian people themselves should decide their destiny and future for this is part of their absolute rights. We support this well-founded viewpoint and constructive stance by which the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from the PRK, the prevention of a recurrence of the Pol Pot genocide, and the cessation of all foreign interference in Cambodia's affairs are the key and interrelated issues for the Cambodian settlement. The Soviet Union is prepared, together with other interested states, to provide a guarantee for future agreements concluded within the framework of a political settlement to the Cambodian problem, concluded A.P. Biryukova.

Soviet Delegation Leaves for Home

BK0801133389 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] On the evening of 8 January at 1700, the Soviet party and government delegation led by Comrade Biryukova, candidate Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, left for home after successfully attending the celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the PRK's 7 January national day.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong airport were, among others, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions; Comrade Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh party committee; Comrade General Tie Banh, alternate member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and national defense minister; and many comrade leading cadres from party and state institutions, front, and mass organizations.

The comrade ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Cambodia was also present.

Boehme, Heng Samrin Hold Talks

LD0701130989 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1210 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Phnom Penh (ADN)—The GDR supports Cambodia's far-reaching initiative to have Vietnamese troops still stationed in the country to withdraw by September

1989 in the event of a political solution to the Cambodian problem. It was part of the efforts of socialist states to find ways to solve conflicts in today's complex world. This was stated by SED Politburo member Hans-Joachim Boehme in a talk with Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRKI State Council in Phnom Penh on Friday. Boehme heads the GDR party and state delegation to celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the liberation of Cambodia.

Heng Samrin stated that Cambodia supports all the GDR's proposals aimed at the creation of nuclear- and chemical weapons-free zones in central Europe. He said that these serve to normalize the international situation.

The two sides said they are satisfied with the state of bilateral relations, which should be developed. Hans-Joachim Boehme said that the GDR will continue to be a reliable partner in solidarity with the Cambodian people.

Activities of GDR's Boehme

LD0601192989 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1547 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh (ADN)—A festive event in Phnom Penh on Friday marked the start of the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the victory of 7 January 1979, the PRK national day. Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean Revolutionary People's Party and chairman of the PRK State Council, gave a festive address. The warmly welcomed guests included the GDR party and government delegation led by Hans-Joachim Boehme, member of the Politburo and Central Committee and first secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Halle Bezirk [areaS] Executive. Boehme handed over a mobile X-ray unit and medical instruments as an official state present. [passage omitted]

Boehme-Led Delegation Concludes visit

LD0801211389 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1544 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Phnom Penh (ADN)—Concluding its visit to Cambodia the delegation from the GDR under the leadership of Hans-Joachim Boehme met with Hun Sen, chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers, for a friendly talk on Sunday evening. During the exchange of views both sides expressed their satisfaction at the level of bilateral relations. They called for cooperation according to the friendship agreement made between the two countries in 1980 to be expanded further.

Hun Sen spoke about the situation in Cambodia and explained the most recent initiatives of the PRK and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on a speeding-up of a political settlement to the Cambodian problem. They concurred in expressing the hope that the proposal to

withdraw Vietnamese troops from the country by September this year would cause a positive reaction. Hans-Joachim Boehme expressed great esteem for the constructive policies of the PRK and promised the GDR's full support for the new proposal.

Japan Backs Sihanouk; Plans To Give Aid

AU0901122589 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT
9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 9 (AFP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Sousuke Uno has given his country's full support to Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and said Japan had set up a Cambodian aid committee, sources close to the prince said here on Monday.

The pledges of support for the prince, considered as the key to any settlement to the Cambodian conflict, were said to have been made at a one-hour meeting on the sidelines of a conference here on chemical weapons.

Japan supports a five-point plan, put forward by Prince Sihanouk, which calls for a withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the dismantling of rival Phnom Penh and exile governments, sources said.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979 and ousted the ruling Khmer Rouge, who along with followers of Prince Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann now form a resistance coalition against the Vietnamese troops.

Mr. Uno also said Japan would exert economic pressure on Vietnam, to try and bring about a withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia, the sources added.

No firm details of the aid, destined to help Cambodia's reconstruction, were available. But reliable sources said Japan was ready to give one billion dollars to Cambodia and Laos, and a further billion dollars to Vietnam once the conflict is settled.

Mr. Uno also said Japan would actively help in the search for a fair solution to the Cambodian conflict and that Japan was kept regularly informed of Sino-Soviet talks on the subject, the sources said.

China supports the Khmer Rouge in the conflict.

Cambodia was also discussed at the conference sidelines on Sunday by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his Soviet opposite number Eduard Shevardnadze. The two ministers are due to meet early next month in Beijing.

Prince Sihanouk, currently living in Paris, will also discuss Cambodia on Tuesday during a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Mr. Alatas was expected to try to persuade the prince to attend a second round of informal talks on Cambodia due to be held in Jakarta in February.

The earlier round, held in July 1988 at Bogor near Jakarta, brought together the tri-partite resistance coalition, the Phnom Penh government, Vietnam, Laos and the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the first time.

Indonesia

Alatas on PRC, USSR, U.S. Relations
BK0901041589 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST
in English 4 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia unrolled its new diplomatic calendar yesterday with appeals to Moscow and Beijing to keep their promises to help ensure a more stable Southeast Asia, while hailing the recent U.S.-Soviet rapprochement and "paying serious attention" to a recent flurry of political moves by the major world powers.

In his year-end review of the Indonesian diplomatic diary, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas yesterday commended "indications to increase bilateral relations" with the Soviet Union and challenged Moscow to realize its promises for Southeast Asian stability as contained in Mikhail Gorbachev's Vladivostok, Krasnoyarsk, and UN speeches.

"Over the past year, there have been indications of increased bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union," Alatas stated.

"The Soviet Union has become more positive in its attitude by backing Indonesia's stand on East Timor."

"The Soviet Union also supports Indonesia over the Jakarta informal meeting (JIM)," Alatas noted referring to informal talks on the Kampuchean conflict.

"We have jotted down various (Soviet) proposals such as the one on the need to reduce arms in this region."

"In this context, Indonesia is awaiting the realization of those initiatives, which will hopefully bring about a change in the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in Southeast Asia, from an era of armed conflicts as what is happening in Kampuchea to an era of mutually beneficial cooperation," Alatas said.

Turning to China, Alatas said "Indonesia hopes that China will play a more constructive role in the Asia-Pacific region in general and in the Southeast Asian region in particular."

China has promised to reduce its military aid to the Khmer Rouge in what appears to be a good-will gesture to respond to the Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea, but there have been no indications whatsoever that the promise would become reality in the foreseeable future.

Alatas also noted "sufficient understanding" exerted by the United States Government over the East Timor question and lamented as "very regrettable" the Congress and Senate attitude on the matter.

He spoke of "expanded" U.S. attention to Indonesia's growth and hoped that "under President George Bush," the United States will "pay more attention to Southeast Asia and Indonesia in particular."

Alatas said U.S.-Indonesian relations "generally run well," but there remain issues that "could probably obstruct," such as Washington's staunch opposition to the creation of a Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (NWFZ).

Other issues which will deserve serious Indonesian attention this year, according to Alatas, are the development of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces' capabilities.

"Indonesia monitors closely the increased capabilities of Japan's Self-Defense Forces so that this development will not create new problems, particularly in Southeast Asia," Alatas stated.

"We will continue to seriously monitor the developments in relations between India and China, China and the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union and Japan," Alatas said in a briefing here to editors and diplomatic journalists.

Putting more emphasis on the need to maintain the available peace momentum on Kampuchea, Alatas stressed that informal talks on Kampuchea, which are slated to be held in Jakarta under the name of JIM-2 late February, should be held as scheduled so that "substantive progress" could be made.

He admitted, however, that JIM-2 "will be more difficult and more sensitive" for parties to the conflict compared with JIM-1 held last July 25-28.

Prince Sihanouk's coalition government has asked that JIM-2 be delayed indefinitely, but Alatas said yesterday he would travel to Paris this week to "convince" Sihanouk that this momentum should not be let go. Sources said Alatas may leave Jakarta on Sunday. The official purpose of his trip is to attend a chemical weapons conference.

On the issue of normalization of diplomatic relations with China, Alatas made it clear that "the process is continuing" and that relations would be normalized when the right time comes.

"We at the Foreign Ministry have continued to monitor various messages about the evolution in Chinese attitude toward normalization. Based on that, we hope that there will be further developments."

He echoed President Suharto's remarks that "we will continue the process till normalization can be done."

Alatas said he would "try to intensify" this process, however, "but you will have to be patient."

On whether Indonesia will accommodate a PLO representative office here, Alatas said: "I think the logical consequence of our recognition of the independent State of Palestine is, of course, the establishment of diplomatic relations with the new state. We are ready for that."

"I don't think that will produce any problem. It's just a question of when we both agree to have those relations established and an office opened here. I can assure you that it will cause no further problem."

The foreign minister also gave a cautious reaction to the 1992 European market integration plan, saying that Indonesia "trusts" European leaders' assurances that the unified market will not be protectionist. But he also cautioned that developing countries should be able to assess the situation critically.

Alatas Leaves for Paris, Sihanouk Meeting

BK0801125389 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Indonesia will not force other parties to accept its opinion on efforts to resolve the Kampuchean problem. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas left for Paris this morning to attend the international conference on chemical warfare and will hold a special meeting with Prince Sihanouk on Tuesday [10 January] only to clarify the importance of holding the second Jakarta informal meeting [JIM].

He said, besides exchanging opinions with Prince Sihanouk on the latest developments in efforts to resolve the Kampuchean problem, he will also convey information concerning preparations for the second JIM. Minister Ali Alatas will stress the importance of holding the second JIM to Prince Sihanouk.

Suharto on Possibility of SRV Joining ASEAN

BK0901090089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 9 (AFP)—Indonesian President Suharto does not object to Vietnam joining the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a senior military official said here Monday [9 January].

"Mr. Suharto did not object to the idea as long as it was in line with the practices and principles agreed by ASEAN," National Defence Council Governor Major-General Subiyakto told reporters after meeting the president.

The main principle was that of peaceful coexistence and different political systems should not hamper a country from fostering relations with other countries, he quoted the Indonesian leader as saying.

Vietnam's participation in ASEAN could be important if countries in the region wanted to enhance regional resilience, Mr. Suharto added. ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Maj.-Gen. Subiyakto was reporting to the president on the council's plan to organize a two-month seminar on ASEAN regional resilience for senior government and military officials from the six member countries here starting Thursday.

Mr. Suharto said regional resilience would become even more important in the next 20 years to face changes created by the European Economic Community's unified market in 1992 and the trade pact between the United States and Canada.

ASEAN leaders meeting in a 1987 summit in Manila agreed on the need to promote regional resilience through strengthening the resilience in member countries. This upcoming seminar aims to create a greater understanding among member countries to promote national resilience, Mr. Subiyakto said.

Alatas Comments on Planned PLO Office Opening

BK0801153789 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says the planned opening of a PLO representative office in Jakarta amounts to Indonesia's recognition of the establishment of a Palestine state.

Speaking at an interview aired by TVRI [Indonesia television] this evening, Alatas said that as a logical consequence of Indonesia's recognition of the Palestine state, Indonesia will establish diplomatic relations with the state. Therefore, it is necessary for the two sides to hold talks on the form of the representative office and when it will be opened. Alatas said several technical matters must also be discussed further.

Suharto To Attend Emperor Hirohito's Funeral

BK0901110889 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1015 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Jakarta, January 8 (ANTARA)—President Suharto has decided to go to Japan himself to pay his last tribute to the late Emperor Hirohito, Minister/State Secretary Mardiono announced over the weekend.

Minister Mardiono said that report of the passing away of the Japanese emperor was received by President Suharto at 0800 on Saturday [7 January]. As soon as he

received the news, the president immediately sent a message of condolences on behalf of himself, his family, the people, and the Government of Indonesia. [passage omitted]

Concerning the date for President Suharto's departure to Japan to pay his last tribute to the late emperor, Minister Mardiono said it will be adjusted to plans made the kingdom and Government of Japan and presumably the plans will be made in accordance with the Japanese imperial traditions.

Minister Mardiono confirmed that this will be the first time that President Suharto will go to a non-ASEAN country to pay his last respect to a head of state. Prior to this, President Suharto had attended the burial of the late president of Singapore, Benyamín Sheares.

On the basis of information obtained from various sources, there is a possibility that President Suharto will go to Tokyo about 40 days from now. [passage omitted]

Overview of 1989-90 State Budget Presented
BK0701101589 Jakarta ANTARA in English
0636 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Jakarta, January 7 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto Saturday presented a state budget of RP [rupiahs] 36,574.9 billion for fiscal 1989-1990 including a salary raise of 15 percent for civil servants and Armed Forces members. (\$1: RP1733).

The 1989-1990 budget, which represents an increase of 26 percent over the 1988-1989 budget, was presented by the president in a plenary session of the DPR (parliament).

A raise in salary has been awaited by the state civil servants and armed forces members because their salary has not been raised for years while the prices of goods have hiked significantly.

In this connection the government intends to raise the salary.

The salary hike will be 15 percent of the one received in December 1988. The raise is effective as of April 1, 1989.

In fact, the president has decided that starting January 1, 1989 the starting salary of civil servants and members of the Armed Forces will be increased by 10 percent of the previous one.

With such salary increase we all hope that the dedication and diligence of every civil servant, as well as the working performance of the state apparatus, will also improve.

Regarding the 1989-1990 budget, the president said that it is also based on the balanced budget principle.

Domestic revenues in the budget will reach more than RP 25 trillion or an increase of almost 16 percent, while development revenues are estimated to be over RP 11 trillion or an increase of 58 percent.

The domestic revenues are about 70 percent of the state revenues, whereas the development revenues constitute 30 percent of the state revenues.

Routine expenditures are envisaged to reach over RP 23 trillion or an increase of about 17 percent.

Development expenditures will be about RP 13 trillion or an increase of approximately 47 percent.

Meanwhile, with increased domestic revenues, the public savings will reach RP 1.8 trillion.

In his speech introducing the draft state budget, the president disclosed that oil/gas revenues are predicted to reach almost RP 8 trillion or a decline by close to 11 percent from the current state budget.

Non-oil/gas revenues are predicted to be over RP 17 trillion, meaning an increase of 34 percent. The non-oil/gas revenues will constitute almost 69 percent of the total domestic revenues.

"This picture shows encouraging developments, because the decline in oil/gas revenues of RP 1 trillion is compensated by increased non-oil/gas revenues amounting to RP 4 trillion," the president said.

As to the state revenues from the non-oil/gas sector, the revenues from income tax are estimated to rise by 31 percent, thus reaching to close [to] RP 5 trillion. Revenues from value added tax are expected to increase by about 2 percent, thus reaching close to RP 6 trillion.

Other relatively important source of revenues is excise, reaching to almost RP 1.5 trillion or an increase of 12 percent. Import duties of RP 1.4 trillion or an increase of 33 percent and non-tax receipts—mainly coming from receipts of state-owned companies—amounting to RP 2 trillion or an increase of 62 percent.

Furthermore, the land and building tax is expected to reach RP 638 billion or an increase of 98 percent, export tax RP 160 billion or an increase of 10 percent, other taxes RP 424 billion or increasing by 56 percent and net oil profit amounting to RP 393 billion.

The president said revenues from tax are still small. In the final year of Repelita IV [Fourth National Development Program], the tax revenues were merely nine percent of the gross domestic product.

This figure is still lower compared with that of Indonesia's neighbouring countries with ASEAN, which reaches between 13-14 percent.

"We are going to raise tax revenues by the end of Repelita V [Fifth National Development Program] to 15 percent of the gross domestic product."

The government must be alert, however, that the endeavours to increase the state revenues do not dampen the people's enthusiasm to intensify their economic activities.

The management of the state revenues must be conducted fairly and properly.

Concerning routine expenditure, the president said personnel expense will be close to RP 6 trillion or an increase of 24 percent from the current budget, material expense is RP 1.4 trillion or an increase of 10 percent and subsidies for autonomous region are nearing RP 3.6 trillion or an increase of 24 percent.

In fiscal 1989-1990 (April to March) the government will spend RP 12 trillion to service the nation's external debts.

Explaining about development expenditures, the president said that the development expenditures totalling RP 13 trillion consist of rupiah financing to the tune of RP 3.6 trillion, and project aid amounting to RP 9.5 trillion.

Compared with the current state budget, development expenditures have risen to more than RP 4 trillion or about 47 percent.

For the first year of the next Repelita V, there are five sectors which will get development budget of over RP 1 trillion each.

These five sectors are: communications and tourism sector receives development budget of RP 2.5 trillion, agriculture and irrigation sector receives RP 2 trillion, education, young generation, national culture and Believe in One God sector receives more than RP 1.6 trillion, and regional, rural and urban development sector receives more than RP 1.5 trillion.

Laos

Leaders Greet PRK Counterparts on National Day *BK0601145589 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[Text] Comrade Kayson Phommavihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the state; and Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, acting chairman of the SPC of the LPDR, today sent a joint message of congratulations to Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council; Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly of the PRK, in Phnom Penh.

The message reads:

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Cambodian revolution and the founding of the PRK, on behalf of the LPRP Central Committee, the SPC, the LPDR Council of Ministers, the multiethnic Lao people, and in our own names, we are overwhelmingly happy to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to you, comrades, and, through you, to the KPRP Central Committee, the State Council, the Council of Ministers, the National Assembly, and all the fraternal people of Cambodia.

The 7 January 1979 victory marked the most important event in the history of Cambodia because the Cambodian people rose up to topple the brutal genocidal regime of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and to establish the PRK, thus ushering in a new era of genuine independence, peace, and self-mastery.

Over the past 10 years, the fraternal Cambodian people under the correct leadership of the KPRP have overcome numerous obstacles and difficulties, scored great victories in defending and enhancing the fruits of the revolution, and recorded numerous successes in economic, cultural, and social restoration and development, thereby gradually improving the people's living conditions. The status and role of the PRK is gradually rising in the international arena. The posture and strength of the Cambodian revolution are also growing and developing. The great all-round victories scored by the Cambodian people have become an important foundation for the tasks of defending national independence and building Cambodia into a prosperous and progressive entity. They have served to increase the might of the revolutions in the three Indochinese countries, significantly contributing to the cause of the struggle for peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and for international peace and security.

As close comrades in arms of the Cambodian people, the Lao party, government, and people would like to wholeheartedly hail the glorious successes scored by the Cambodian people. We regard these victories as our own.

We once again reiterate that we will continue rendering support and assistance to the just struggle of Cambodian people, with the aim of implementing the policy of national reconciliation and the numerous good-willed proposals advanced by the PRK in the search for ways to bring about a settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means.

We are elated to see that the traditional, time-honored great friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Cambodia have developed and borne more fruits, thus ensuring victories for the revolutions in each of our country.

On this occasion, we would like to express our overwhelming gratitude to the party, government, and fraternal people of Cambodia for consistently rendering invaluable support and assistance to the Lao revolutionary cause.

We would like to take this auspicious opportunity to wish the fraternal Cambodian people new and still greater successes in implementing the policy of national reconciliation, defending their national independence, peace, happiness, and wealth.

May the indestructible great friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Cambodia and between the three countries—Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—last forever.

On the same day, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, foreign minister of our country, also sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Hun Sen, foreign minister of the PRK.

Phoumi Vongvichit Greets Chea Sim

*BK0801015889 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 7 Jan 89*

[Greetings message from Phoumi Vongvichit, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee, to Chea Sim, chairman of the KUFNCD National Council, on the PRK's National Day—dated 5 January]

[Text] On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the PRK, on behalf of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, the multiethnic Lao people, and in my own name, I would like to convey warm salutations and best wishes to you, comrade, members of the Front National Council, and all fraternal Cambodian people.

Over the past 10 years, though international reactionaries and counterrevolutionaries have continuously striven to carry out sabotage and subversive activities against the PRK, under the clear-sighted leadership of the KPRP with beloved and respected Comrade Heng Samrin as head, the heroic Cambodian people, closely uniting around the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, have smashed all vicious schemes of the imperialists and international reactionaries and defeated all sabotage and subversive acts of the counterrevolutionaries, thereby contributing to building the economy, healing the wounds of war, and improving their social life step-by-step, securely defending the territory and the revolutionary gains. All these accomplishments have reflected the great and firm overall strength of the PRK which has thus contributed to the enhancement of the overall strength of the three Indochinese countries to together safeguard peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Our LFNC and multiethnic Lao people are elated over the fruitful achievements and victories scored by the Cambodian people and regarding those achievements and victories as our own.

I wish the fraternal Cambodian people new, still greater achievements in implementing the resolutions adopted by the Fifth KPRP Congress. I wish you, comrade, and

members of the KUFNCD National Council good health and successes in performing all your noble and glorious tasks. May the special friendship and militant alliance between the two peoples of Laos and Cambodia last forever and be fruitfully developed with each passing day!

Vientiane Rally Marks PRK Anniversary

*BK0701125989 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0500 GMT 7 Jan 89*

[Excerpts] This morning, The LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR government held a grand rally at the Vientiane theater to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the PRK's national day, 7 January. The rally was attended by distinguished guests, both domestic and foreign, along with senior Buddhist monks and more than 1,000 Vientiane residents.

In this glorious ceremony, Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, acting president of the Republic, and chairman of the central-level committee in charge of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the PRK's national day, delivered a speech. After reviewing the brutal and barbarous crimes committed by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary genocidal clique in massacring as many as 3 million Cambodian people during the more than 3 years of its ruling in the land of Angkor, Phoumi Vongvichit recalled and highly appraised the achievements and victories in various fields scored by the fraternal Cambodian people over the past 10 years. He said:

[Begin Phoumi Vongvichit recording] The various basic, firm achievements and victories of the Cambodian people have enhanced the strength of the Cambodian revolution. They have also significantly contributed to the enhancement of the position and strength of the revolutions of the three Indochinese countries. They constitute a positive factor for the cause of struggle for peace, stability, and social progress in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The victories achieved by the Cambodian people over the past 10 years have clearly proved that justice is bound to overcome injustice. They reflect the profound patriotic spirit of the Cambodian people, the correct leadership of the KPRP, the overall strength arising from the militant solidarity and special relations among the three Indochinese countries, the great support and assistance of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries as well as various peace- and justice-loving nations throughout the world. On behalf of the party, government, and multiethnic people of Laos, I would like to wholeheartedly hail the great achievements and victories scored by the fraternal Cambodian people which we regard as our own. [applause]

Beloved comrades and friends, throughout the past 13 years, the Lao people have concentrated all forces on maintaining, promoting, and expanding the revolutionary gains, settling the consequences arising from the war,

restoring and rebuilding the economy, and checking all sabotage and subversive acts of the enemies, thereby securely safeguarding the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. At present, the multiethnic Lao people are competing in translating into reality the resolution of the fourth party congress, the fifth and the sixth resolutions of the party Central Committee sessions, and the second 5-year state plan with a view to effecting new changes in viewpoints in all fields, for example, viewpoints in carrying out activities in the economic, cultural, social, and foreign affairs fields. Though we still have some difficulties resulting from the delay in switching from the old to the new, through what we have done in the past 2 years it is clear that we have achieved new steps in carrying out the production business and we have carried out the circulation and distribution work even more thoroughly. We have effectively made use of various economic sectors. Our party's line has been widely supported by the people. Our relations and cooperation with foreign countries have also been broadened on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The various successes achieved by the people cannot be separated from the great and effective support and assistance from the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Soviet peoples as well as from peoples of other fraternal socialist countries and various friendly countries throughout the world. The Lao people would like to wholeheartedly express profound gratitude to those peoples for the said precious support and assistance. [applause]

Beloved comrades and friends, at present, the world situation continues to change in favor of the forces of peace and progress. The trend toward peaceful coexistence and the settlement of disputes between countries through talks has been promoted. Along with this, the imperialists and other reactionary powers have not yet completely abandoned their policy of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of certain countries. They have created tension and armed confrontation in certain regions in the world.

In the Southeast Asia region in particular, the LPDR, the PRK, and the SRV have advanced joint proposals on many occasions, aiming to turn the region into a region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation. The outcome of the Jakarta informal meeting has served as a basis and paved the way for the political settlement of the Cambodian problem as well as the problem of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. It has been widely supported by governments of various countries and general public opinion in the world.

New steps have been achieved by the Nonaligned Movement in carrying out activities aimed at seeking means to settle the Cambodian and Southeast Asian problems. The past meetings between Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk and other Cambodian factions have brought about new

progress in the settlement of the Cambodian problem. They have also created conditions for the Cambodian people to be able to resolve their problem by themselves.

The LPDR fully supports the correct stand and attitude and all well-intentioned proposals of the PRK, which are aimed at achieving a solution to the Cambodian problem through peaceful and reasonable means to serve the benefits and aspirations of the Cambodian people. The LPDR maintains that the Cambodian problem must be appropriately settled through political means in two aspects—the internal and international affairs aspects. The first one—on the internal affairs of Cambodia—must be settled by the Cambodian people themselves on the basis of the policy of national reconciliation. The other one—on international affairs—must be settled on the basis of the two key issues which are closely interlinked, namely the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia and the prevention of the return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot clique in Cambodia and the setting of a timetable for the halt to military assistance to various Cambodian resistance forces.

Yesterday, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and Comrade Heng Samrin jointly announced in Phnom Penh that all Vietnamese volunteer troops will be withdrawn from Cambodia by September 1989 if the Cambodian problem is politically settled. This is a new and very significant step. We hereby wholeheartedly welcome and support this new initiative. [applause] But, we still understand that the said withdrawal of troops does not depend only on the Vietnamese side. Foreign countries must also stop rendering assistance to the Cambodian reactionaries in order to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique from returning to Cambodia to commit crimes against the Cambodian people again.

We, therefore, would like to call on all countries to put an end to their acts of interfering in the internal affairs of the Cambodian people, but to turn to cooperating in creating favorable conditions for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops and for the achievement of national reconciliation in Cambodia.

We fully support the various peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, in particular the proposal made by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly as well as other proposals of other fraternal socialist countries and progressive countries in the world, nuclear weapons-free zones, and achieving mutual trust, and for peaceful coexistence and promotion and expansion of cooperation of mutual benefit on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and nonuse of forces for imposing threats and aggression against each other. Our Lao people pledge to strive to do our utmost, together with the PRK, the SRV, the USSR, other fraternal socialist countries, and various friendly countries in the

world, to quickly settle the Cambodian problem in order to promote and establish peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world.

Beloved comrades and friends, Laos and Cambodia have maintained traditions of good relations of friendship since ancient times. The peoples of the two countries have always cherished, maintained solidarity, and helped each other in a spirit of fraternity. At present, the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the two parties, governments, and peoples of Laos and Cambodia as well as among the three countries—Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—in accordance with the spirit of the summit meeting of the three Indochinese countries have been vigorously and firmly developed with a new quality. The close solidarity and friendship, which have been continually promoted and nurtured on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, have now become a factor to determine victory and served as a rule for the development of the revolution in each of our countries.

The Lao people pledge to continue to securely defend, nurture, and fruitfully promote this precious solidarity and friendship. [applause] [end recording]

Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRK to the LPDR, then took the floor and delivered a speech addressing the rally. [passage omitted]

Later, the distinguished guests and people, who attended the grand rally celebrating the 10th anniversary of the PRK's national day on this occasion, viewed the art performances staged by the December young pioneers and the acrobatic shows performed by the central art and acrobatic troupe in a joyous atmosphere.

Leaders Attend PRK National Day Reception
BK0901031989 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Long Kem, PRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, hosted a reception on Saturday [7 January] evening at the PRK Embassy on the occasion of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the national day and the victory day of the PRK.

Honorably attending the reception were Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee, acting president of state, and chairman of the national committee for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the PRK national day; Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, secretary of the party committee and chairman of the Vientiane Municipality Administrative Committee; Sali Vongkhamso, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, and minister of economy, planning, and finance; Choummali Sai-gnason, alternate

Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and first deputy minister of national defense; and ministers, deputy ministers, and a large number of high-ranking cadres from various services.

Foreign diplomats accredited to Laos also had the honor to be invited to attend the reception.

PASASON Marks PRK National Day
BK0901093389 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 7 Jan 89

[PASASON 7 January editorial: "After 10 Years of Victories and Trials, the PRK is Majestically Marching Forward"]

[Text] 7 January 1979 was the day of miraculous victory of the Cambodian revolution. It was the most significant event in the history of the Cambodian nation. The toppling of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary genocidal regime opened a new era of genuine independence, freedom, and self-mastery for the Cambodian people. During the period of 3 years, 8 months, and 20 days in power alone, the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique imposed severe hardships on the Cambodian people and created chaos of all sorts in every corner of Cambodia. Cambodian society was severely ravaged and the most notorious and barbarous genocidal phenomenon in the history of mankind occurred. The national economy and culture were completely destroyed and buried in a quagmire of disasters. More than 3 million innocent Cambodian people of all sexes and ages—children, women, old people, and clergymen—became the victims in the hellfire of genocide of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique.

Nevertheless, after liberation in 1979, under the correct leadership of the KPRP and with the assistance from the socialist countries, especially from the fraternal army and people of Vietnam, and friends from all over the world, the Cambodian people began reviving their life. Starting from zero, over the past 10 years the fraternal Cambodian people have overcome numerous difficulties and scored numerous achievements of great significance in defending the country and rehabilitating the economy, society, and culture, thereby gradually improving the people's living conditions. By 1980, they managed to do away with the danger of famine.

All in all on the economic front, over the past 10 years the Cambodian people have managed to score commendable achievements in various fields. For example, they have increased the acreage for planting rubber trees from 5,000 to 41,000 hectares to produce an estimated 28,000 metric tons in 1987 compared to 1,300 metric tons in 1980. Fishing has also increased tremendously. The acreage for rice planting has also vastly increased. In 1987, more than 2 million metric tons of paddy were produced compared to 1 million metric tons in 1981. Services in the telecommunications sector have also been gradually guaranteed and electricity production has

been reorganized. For example, the (?Karl Marx) electricity generating plant has now managed to increase production by nearly 20 million kwh.

Work in the education, public health, cultural, and sports fields has clearly made new steps of development. There are over 4,622 formal schools at present with the enrollment of more than 1,640,000 students. The number of universities and higher-level and secondary polytechnic schools has increased 20 fold compared to that of the 1980-81 school year. By 1988, there were five printing plants, 50 libraries, and 29 movie theaters. The number of professional art troupes throughout the country has increased from 19 in 1979 to 41 at present.

In the meantime, with regard to the political, military, and international affairs, the fraternal Cambodian people have also scored successes and great victories in various fields, for instance in launching suppression drives against the counterrevolutionaries and hirelings of the enemies, safeguarding the fruits of the revolution and enhancing the 7 January spirit. The most outstanding feat-of-arms occurred in the dry season in 1984. During that season, with the assistance from the Vietnamese volunteer forces and the fraternal Vietnamese people, the Cambodian people completely dismantled the positions of the Cambodian reactionaries located along the Cambodian-Thai border.

These miraculous victories undeniably testify to the growth and might of the PRK in all fields, especially in national defense, thereby creating numerous fundamental conditions for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces from Cambodia. The returning to the native land by the Vietnamese volunteer forces after fulfilling their esteemed international obligations in Cambodia, whose seventh partial withdrawal has just been completed, clearly testifies to the capabilities of the Cambodian army and people who are incessantly growing stronger and bigger with every passing day.

Nonetheless, the PRK Government proceeded to issue a statement reiterating its six-point amnesty policy dated 18 August 1987. On 27 August 1987, a policy of national reconciliation was also announced. This policy has served to put the Cambodian problem into a more clear-cut perspective. An informal meeting [on the Cambodia] was held at Bogor in Indonesia in August 1988. As a result of the Bogor meeting, certain key fundamental issues with regard to the settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means were more clearly identified. That is, there were two related issues linking to this problem—the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Cambodia must be linked to the prevention of the genocidal Pol Pot clique from returning to power in Cambodia as well as to the cessation of the foreign intervention and assistance to the Cambodian resistance groupings. That [meeting] was followed by a meeting between Sihanouk and Hun Sen. An international conference on national reconciliation in Cambodia, dialogue, and cooperation in Southeast Asia came next

when it was convened in Phnom Penh at the initiative of AAPSO. The latest development was the tripartite meeting of the three Cambodian factions in Paris on 7 and 8 November during which Hun Sen, Sihanouk, and Son Sann met with one another to discuss various issues. A joint statement was subsequently issued and several positive agreements were reached, thus transforming the military confrontation into negotiation. As a result, the tension has been reduced—not only in Cambodia but in Southeast Asia as well. Since then the status and role of the PRK are gradually rising in the international arena. The PRK has now been more and more widely recognized not only by the socialist countries but also by a large number of nonaligned countries. A total number of 36 countries and national liberation movements have extended recognition to the PRK so far.

The great achievements scored by the fraternal Cambodian people in the past 10 years have made the PRK grow stronger and mightier every passing day and continue to majestically march forward along the path the Cambodian people have chosen.

As close comrades in arms sharing the same trench and destiny, the Lao people would like to wholeheartedly hail all the miraculous successes recorded by the fraternal Cambodian people over the past 10 years and we regard those great victories and successes as our own. The LPRP and the KPRP and the Lao and Cambodian peoples have shared the time-honored traditions of uniting together in carrying out struggles against the imperialists for the independence of their respective nation for a long time.

Since the founding of the Indochinese Communist Party, the special militant solidarity, all-round cooperation, and mutual assistance among the Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese peoples on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and the glorious proletariat internationalism have become the law for survival and development of each country in advancing along the socialist path. At present, the relations of friendship, special fraternal solidarity, and close all-round cooperation between the LPRP and the KPRP, between the LPDR and the PRK, and between the Lao and Cambodian peoples are continuously growing stronger and bearing more fruits.

The Lao party, government, and people voice full support to the principled foreign policy pursued and all proposals advanced by the PRK and the SRV in searching for a venue to settle the Cambodian problem through political means and which have received extensive support from all progressive and justice-loving people throughout the world, aimed at creating national concord and restoring peace in Cambodia, thereby directly contributing to the cause of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

On this auspicious occasion, once again the entire multiethnic Lao people would like to wish the fraternal Cambodian people new greater successes in fulfilling the

tasks outlined by the Fifth KPRP Congress. We wish them successes in implementing the policy of national reconciliation.

May the great friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation between Laos and Cambodia and among the three Indochinese countries—Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia—bear more fruits and last forever.

Philippines

Aquino To Seek U.S. Commitment to Aid Plan
HK0701052189 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] President Aquino will seek U.S. assurance on the \$10-billion aid package in talks with Senator Lugar. More on this from Gwen Moralina:

[Begin recording] President Aquino is expected to formally seek the United States' commitment for the \$10-billion Mini-Marshall Plan for the Philippines when she meets this afternoon with visiting senior legislator Senator Richard Lugar. Senator Lugar and [name indistinct] arrived here yesterday [6 January] for a 3-day visit.

In an arrival statement, Mr Lugar said he was most impressed with the progress since Mrs Aquino took power and expressed support for her goal of spreading economic development to the countryside.

Mr Lugar and Mr [name indistinct] are scheduled to visit the U.S. Subic naval base before leaving for Bangkok on Monday. Mr Lugar was a member of a team of U.S. congressional monitors who were instrumental in shifting U.S. support away from then President Marcos following a presidential race between Mrs Aquino and Mr Marcos in 1986.

The two senators are widely expected to discuss the future of U.S. military bases in the country after 1991 when their lease runs out and the proposed \$10-billion Mini-Marshall Plan for raising international funds to rehabilitate the country's economy.

Clark Base Said Subject to Land Reform
HK0901021189 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Senate Committee on Agrarian Reform chaired by Senator Heherson Alvarez has ruled that the spirit of land reform must prevail at the Clark Air Base reservation whether they be (?covered) or not by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program [CARP]. Alvarez announced this stand of the committee during his visit there Friday to conduct an inquiry. Some farmers complained of being taxed by Clark Air Base command authorities. The inquiry, held at the Shanghai Restaurant in Angeles City, was attended by some 100 farmers belonging to the [words indistinct] of Mabalacat, Pampanga. Alvarez said [words indistinct] might be a

gap in the agrarian community which will not be covered by CARP. Farmers must be ameliorated and sharing must always be just. Alvarez has gathered that Capcom [Capital Regional Command] authorities had been collecting 20 percent of the harvest by the farmers tilling portions of the Clark reservation. The Department of Agrarian Reform earlier cleared Capcom authorities of charges that they were violating agrarian reform laws in collecting some fees from the farmers.

Senate President Salonga Interviewed
HK0601102189 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Special interview with Senate President Jovito Salonga in his residence by various Radio Veritas reporters—live—slantlines denote passages in English]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Henry Umaga Diaz] Let us talk about the Congress' agenda when it reopens in session on 9 January. We understand that topping your list is the organic act drafted by the regional consultative councils for Mindanao and Cordillera. Are you confident of early passage of a law granting autonomy to these two regions?

[Salonga] Do you know the reasons why special sessions were called by President Aquino? Because we fear that if we only hold regular sessions from 16 January, the organic acts, whose constitutional deadline is set for 27 January, may not be concluded.

So, what President Aquino did, and I convinced her on this, is to call for special sessions starting this Monday, 9 January. But even if we hold special sessions, most of us still fear that we may not be able to finish these organic acts, both for the Cordilleras and the autonomous region for Muslim Mindanao due to differences in the principles of the people concerned with the drafting of these organic acts. The Regional Consultative Commission has its own proposals while the congressmen and the local executives have their own set of beliefs. So, this is a serious problem for the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I'm praying that we will be able to identify the problems and differences through the seminar workshop we will hold tomorrow at the Rizal Sports Center so we can iron them out immediately. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] You mentioned Senator that there are differences between the congressmen and the drafters of these organic acts. Can you give some examples of these differences.

[Salonga] On the Muslim Mindanao issue alone, these people have no common understanding on what Muslim Mindanao means. You know, we are talking of 13 provinces. But most residents of these provinces are Christians, so why name it Muslim Mindanao? There is currently a move by the congressmen that if the Muslims are granted an autonomous region, then it is only proper

to give autonomy to the dominant Christians on Mindanao Island. So there really is a serious difference. Not only about the name Muslim Mindanao but also on the ancestral lands. What does ancestral lands mean?

The people at the Regional Consultative Commission are not on good terms because there are Muslims and Christians there and they have different beliefs.

There is also the question on the relationship between the autonomous government and the national government. How wide is the jurisdiction of the national government over the regional government; the taxes, the revenues, to whom will most of these go? And who will have the primary jurisdiction on the regulation of the large multinational corporations in the regions? So, this is why I say there is confusion. Maybe at the workshop tomorrow and on Sunday these problems will hopefully be identified. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Senator, you and some senators and House members met with President Aquino today. Can you give us some details?

[Salonga] I did not meet President Aquino today. Today is 6 January, and I spoke with President Aquino on 4 January, 2 days ago. We discussed, among other things, these organic acts. We talked about the presidential veto that they may push through. My formula about President Marcos was also discussed. So, choose what you want us to discuss in this interview.

[Diaz] Let us discuss the budget issue, Senator. So, it was reported that President Corazon Aquino will veto some of the items in the budget. And there seems to have been an exchange of words between the executive and the legislative departments. So, /what is the course of action/ by the Senate in the event that the president announces her veto message.

[Salonga] I advised them to think of this move to veto the budget. It is sensible to think seriously about it before they veto any item.

There are senators who believe that in the case of a veto, the Congress cannot overrule it. But it is my belief that the Senate and the House of Representatives can override a veto of any item. And I have seen the article of Fr. Bernas today which supports my belief that if there is any veto of any item, the Senate can override it.

But my friend Senator Neptali Gonzales has a different belief. He is the chairman of the Senate committee on finance. /He believes that the veto of any of the nine items in the budget is not subject to overriding by Congress./ [passage omitted]

I told the president's adviser to think seriously about this because the items cannot be vetoed without having to veto the whole budget. /You cannot veto a provision in the budget, not an item but a provision, without vetoing the entire bill./

[Diaz] What was the president's response on the budget issue?

[Salonga] They are studying the move seriously. And they noted down our beliefs. But Secretary Macaraig said that their understanding is that if an item is vetoed, the Senate and the House of Representatives can override it. So, we have the same belief.

[Diaz] /So, virtually/, Malacanang has admitted that the Congress has the power to override a veto.

[Salonga] That is the opinion of Secretary Macaraig.

[Diaz] So, what will be the implication if the president sends her veto message to Congress? Most people are fearing that this could create a misunderstanding between the legislative and executive branches.

[Salonga] I think what the president will do is to call several senators who have been involved in the drafting of the budget and some concerned congressmen before sending the message.

[Diaz] Won't this be seen as exerting influence again by Malacanang.

[Salonga] This is the practice of a democratic government. We have to convince each other. /But we can disagree without being disagreeable./ That's what democracy means. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] This question comes from a listener in Sampaloc Tita Vidad.

/Do you think Tita Cory can seek reelection in 1992?/

[Salonga] Cory, has just told me that she is not interested and will not seek reelection. And I fully believe her.

[Diaz] One of the speculations is that you will be one of the standard-bearers of the Liberal Party in the 1992 presidential elections.

[Salonga] I am far from thinking about this issue and I am not tempted. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Situation in Zamboanga City

Death of Hostage Confirmed

HK0601142389 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Slantlines denote passage in English]

[Text] It has now been confirmed that General Eduardo Batalla, the commander of Regional Command [Recom] 9, is dead.

According to the latest report from our colleague Romy Enriquez direct from Zamboanga City, the military were able to enter and see the place where the remains of Batalla were dumped, inside the Recom 9 building.

At around 1620 today, the military attacked the building where Rizal Ali's group is holed up. Batalla was still inside the building at the time. An exchange of gunfire started between military troops and Ali's estimated 60-person force. The military has suspended its attack but will resume early tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr has flown back to Manila. However, Senator Santanina Rasul decided to stay behind. For the details, here is Romy Enriquez, direct from Zamboanga:

[Begin recording in English] He was dead even as government negotiators demanded that the general be presented to the public before negotiations could proceed. Military authorities confirmed Batalla's death at the hands of Rizal Ali and his eight armed companions. The fate of Colonel Romeo Avendan, Batalla's chief of staff, could not be ascertained. He is believed to have suffered the same fate as his general.

Meanwhile, military operations to get at rebel troops who are believed holed up inside the PC compound at R.T. Lim Boulevard, have been suspended because of the darkness.

Military authorities headed by Major General Manuel Cacanando who is celebrating his birthday today said that operations, mopping out operations against the holed up troops will resume early tomorrow morning. [end recording]

In related news, President Corazon Aquino issued a statement to military troops in Zamboanga where she urged them to exhaust all possible means for a peaceful resolution to the hostage problem:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] Secretary Ramos has been in constant touch with General de Villa and he in turn informs me. In fact, he is just calling now. I am on my way to get the call. And Speaker Mitra has also been keeping me informed. In fact, I just spoke to him an hour ago.

My instructions to both Speaker Mitra and Senator Rasul are to exhaust all peaceful efforts and that for me every Filipino life is very precious. And that we should really try to exhaust all peaceful efforts before we will go into force. [end recording]

Earlier, Senator Jovito Salonga, during an interview with Radio Veritas, said that the government will not make any compromise if General Batalla or any of his companions have been killed:

[Begin Salonga recording] If any of the hostages are killed, there must be no compromise./ That will be deliberate murder. Any defiance of authority—and I do not think there should be any compromise specially a compromise that will mean the flight of these people from justice./ [end recording]

Ramos Suspends Assault

HK0601153589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT
6 Jan 89

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Jan 6 (AFP)—Troops late Friday temporarily suspended an assault on a group of Moslems suspected of having killed a general they took hostage here, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said.

Mr. Ramos said the assault was lifted as darkness fell on a paramilitary camp where the group was holed up.

Mr. Ramos said in Manila that troops attacked the hostage-takers, led by a suspended patrolman, in the late afternoon when they learned that Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla had already been killed by his abductors.

Mr. Ramos said later that Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa ordered operations suspended at 8:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) because his troops "do not have the proper lighting facilities" to continue the raid and would like to minimize casualties.

A heavy smell of cordite and tear gas enveloped the seafront constabulary camp where the hostage-takers led by suspended patrolman Rizal Ali and a group of about 40 men were still holed up more than 34 hours after seizing Brig. Gen. Batalla and Colonel Romeo Avendan, witnesses said.

Privately-owned radio station DZRH said troops who stormed the headquarters with light tanks, armored troop transports, recoilless guns and automatic rifles had found the bruised body of the general.

Mr. Ramos confirmed he had been informed by a local official that the general was dead and that the colonel's condition was unknown. But later Friday he said there was "no firm information on Col. Avendan and Gen. Batalla."

Heavily-armed troops remained on guard around the darkened camp, its front fence knocked down by armored vehicles. Windows and roofs of a two-story building in the complex where the Moslems were holed up were shot up, witnesses said.

Mr. Ramos said four of the 20 soldiers who had launched the assault were wounded and that none of the hostage-takers have escaped. There were no immediate reports of casualties among the hostage-takers.

Mr. Ramos said the assault would probably be resumed Saturday morning unless an untoward incident occurred.

"They are also hoping that Ali's supporters would change their plan and forego fighting to the last man," he added.

President Corazon Aquino had told negotiators led by Gen. de Villa and two legislators to exhaust all peaceful means, but talks with Mr. Ali ceased after the hostage-takers failed to prove that Brig. Gen. Batalla was still alive.

Mr. Ali, a member of the Moslem Tausug tribe, was accused and later acquitted of the November 15, 1984 assassination of opposition Zamboanga mayor Cesar Climaco.

Ten days after the murder, he was involved in a shootout with a military unit who tried to search his house in connection with the killing. Two marines, a military nurse and a civilian died in the clash which led to Mr. Ali's suspension.

The hostage-taking began before noon (0400 GMT) on Thursday after Mr. Ali learned from Brig. Gen. Batalla that he was to be arrested for alleged illegal possession of firearms, multiple murder and attempted homicide.

Mr. Ramos said President Corazon Aquino was "abreast of the developments. She understands the assault had to be made in order not to make this a bigger problem and in order also to protect the people of Zamboanga."

Military Resumes Assault

HK0701003089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0015 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Jan 7 (AFP)—Government troops Saturday resumed their assault on a group of Moslems suspected of having killed a general they took hostage here, following a suspension of the attack when darkness fell Friday on a paramilitary camp where the group holed up.

Troops surrounded the camp in this southern city and resumed firing with small arms and some heavy guns mounted on armoured personnel carriers, journalists on the scene said.

One civilian was also wounded in the renewed fighting when a grenade landed near his house, just outside the camp.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said in Manila that troops attacked the hostage-takers, led by a suspended patrolman, in late afternoon of Friday, when they learned that Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla had already been killed by his abductors.

Mr. Ramos said later that Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa ordered operations suspended at 8:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) Friday because his troops "do not have the proper lighting facilities" to continue the raid and would like to minimize casualties.

However sporadic firing by both sides had occurred overnight in an apparent attempt to pin down about 40 armed Moslems led by a suspended patrolman, Rizal Ali, journalists on the scene reported.

Earlier Friday, elite commandoes who stormed the office where Mr. Ali had hostages Brig. Gen. Batalla and Colonel Romeo Abendan, were driven back after suffering about four wounded.

The privately-owned radio station DZRH said troops who stormed the headquarters with light tanks, armored troop transports, recoilless guns and automatic rifles found the bruised body of the general but this could not be confirmed.

Mr. Ramos confirmed he had been informed by a local official that the general was dead and that the colonel's condition was unknown. But later Friday he said there was "no firm information on Col. Abendan and Gen. Batalla."

The assault on Mr. Ali's group occurred about 34 hours after he seized the two officers at noon Thursday and after futile talks with top government officials.

Mr. Ali, a member of the fierce and clannish Moslem Tausug tribe, was acquitted in the November 15, 1984 assassination of opposition Zamboanga Mayor Cesar Climaco.

Ten days after the murder, he was involved in a shootout with a military unit who tried to search his house in connection with the killing. Two marines, a military nurse and a civilian died in the clash which led to Mr. Ali's suspension.

The hostage-taking began before noon (0400 GMT) on Thursday after Mr. Ali learned from Brig. Gen. Batalla that he was to be arrested for alleged illegal possession of firearms, multiple murder and attempted homicide.

Rumours circulating around the city said that Col. Abendan was also dead and that Mr. Ali had managed to escape under cover of darkness but this could not be confirmed.

'Gang' Calls for Negotiations

HK0701024189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0212 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Jan 6 (AFP)—A Moslem gang who killed a general they had held hostage called for fresh negotiations after troops launched a renewed assault against them Saturday, a government negotiator said.

Government radio in this southern city quoted House speaker Ramon Mitra as saying that he had been informed that suspended patrolman Rizal Ali, leader of the 40-man Moslem band, was willing to negotiate for his surrender.

The group took regional paramilitary chief Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla and his aide, Colonel Romeo Abendan hostage Thursday, upon learning that Mr. Ali was facing arrest for several charges, including murder.

Mr. Mitra, who met with Mr. Ali's group on Thursday and Friday to try to negotiate for the hostages' release, told government radio that he had since been informed by Mr. Ali's family that the general was stabbed dead while the colonel was fatally shot shortly before the first assault on Friday.

DZMM, a private radio station in Manila, also reported that Marine Brigadier General Braulio Balbas, who is leading the assault on about 40 Moslems who took hostage a general and a colonel in the camp Thursday, was opening negotiations with Mr. Ali.

Government troops launched fresh "clearing operations," against the band shortly after sunrise Saturday, following a suspension of the initial attack as darkness fell on Friday.

Brig. Gen. Balbas had earlier told reporters that he expected to have the Moslems subdued this same day.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said in Manila that the assault came after the military learned that Brig. Gen. Batalla had already been killed.

Military sources said that two of Mr. Ali's men had already been killed in the fighting but added they could not give a definite casualty report till the fighting was over.

Earlier, one civilian living near the camp was injured by a stray grenade while four commandos who had stormed the building where the Moslems had holed up were wounded in the first assault.

The assault on Mr. Ali's group occurred about 34 hours after he seized the two officers at noon Thursday and after futile talks with Mr. Mitra and top government officials.

Mr. Ali, a member of the fierce and clannish Moslem Tausug tribe, was acquitted in the November 15, 1984 assassination of opposition Zamboanga Mayor Cesar Climaco.

Ten days after the murder, he was involved in a shootout with a military unit who tried to search his house in connection with the killing. Two marines, a military nurse and a civilian died in the clash which led to Mr. Ali's suspension.

Rumours circulating around the city said that Mr. Ali had managed to escape under cover of darkness but this could not be confirmed.

Surrender Offer Rejected

HK0701051189 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The military has rejected an offer by Patrolman Rizal Ali and his men to surrender, saying that the ongoing military operations no longer involve the civilian sector following the collapse of negotiations yesterday. However, the military may still accept Ali's surrender if he and his men will come out peacefully from the building where they are currently holed up. The building in Zamboanga City is reportedly now devastated.

Ali's offer came after military operations were launched to capture him dead or alive. As of broadcast time, joint elements of the Marine, Navy, and Army forces, as well as soldiers in Zamboanga City, are continuing an intensive attack against the renegade policemen. A helicopter gunship carried out bombardment of the building where Rizal Ali and his men are holed up until the building went up in flames. The gunship, armed with .50 caliber machineguns, began firing at the building at around 1005 today. Reports indicated that two more combat tanks and helicopter gunships will be deployed in the assault operations.

Meanwhile, our colleague in Zamboanga City, Danny Macansantos, reports that the building is now a total wreck.

However, Rizal Ali and his men are reportedly firing back with automatic weapons taken from the armory. The helicopter assault was carried out simultaneously with negotiations on Ali's offer to surrender. Some sectors in Zamboanga, however, have rejected the offer due to the heavy casualties caused by Ali. Instead, the authorities are continuing to enter the camp in an attempt to capture Ali and his men.

Meanwhile, the bodies inside the building have not been retrieved and the number of victims is not yet confirmed. The latest report indicates that the building has been set on fire and destroyed following bombardment by the military.

In a related development, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr has confirmed that Colonel Romeo Abendan is dead. Mitra said that he spoke with Patrolman Rizal Ali this morning and learned that two of Ali's brothers are also dead.

In an interview with PBS [Philippine Broadcasting System], Mitra gave an account of the incident, including the killing of PC-INP Recom [Regional Command] 9 Commander Eduardo Batalla.

[Begin Mitra recording] Rizal reported that his two brothers are dead and confirmed the death of General Batalla. He said that Batalla was killed on the night that Senator Nina Rasul and I were there. According to him, there was a struggle inside the building and Batalla was stabbed. Meanwhile, Colonel Abendan was killed yesterday, shortly before the fighting broke out. [end recording]

Mitra also said that Ali expressed his intention to surrender.

[Begin Mitra recording] A few minutes later, a friend of mine in Zamboanga who had radio contact with Rizal Ali reported that the latter wanted to surrender. Ali also asked that fighting cease and that the president be informed of his desire to surrender. He wanted the message conveyed to the president because he believed that he would be killed. He did not want to wave the white flag because he claimed that he would be killed. He wanted it conveyed to the president that he wanted to surrender unconditionally. [end recording]

On the Zamboanga hostage drama, Speaker Mitra explained that the incident was a personal vendetta of Ali and has nothing to do with the MNLF, as alleged in speculations.

[Begin Mitra recording in progress] ...international ramifications of this incident because there are foreign newsmen reporting that it was fighting between Muslims and Christians. There is no such thing. This is a personal fight of Rizal Ali, who believes that he is a member of the persecuted Filipinos. [sentence as heard] There may be some truth to this. He harbors frustrations over the injustices he experienced. So, it will be best to explain to foreign correspondents that Christian-Muslim relations is not the issue here. This is a personal fight of Rizal, his relatives, and his friends who believe themselves to be victims of injustice. [end recording]

Death of Abendan Confirmed

HK0701070589 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0600 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Camp Aguinaldo reported today that Colonel Romeo Abendan was killed by his abductors at around 1645 yesterday. Abendan's murder occurred before the military launched its assault on the Recom [Regional Command] 9 headquarters, where Patrolman Rizal Ali and his men are holed up.

Earlier, Ali's group also killed Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla, PC-INP Recom 9 commander, on the first night of the hostage drama.

Ali, the prime suspect in the killing of Zamboanga City Mayor Cesar Climaco in November 1984, took Batalla and other Recom 9 officials hostage at 1145 on Thursday.

Aquino Condemns Murders

HK0701092489 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Here is a statement from President Corazon Aquino on the killings of Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla and Colonel Romeo Abendan of Regional Command 9. The message is read by Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno:

[Begin recording in English in progress] ...grieved over the tragic events that took place yesterday, grieved and shocked over the brutal deaths of Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla and his aide Colonel Romeo Abendan who refused to leave the side of his superior official and begged to share his terrible fate.

We expressed our deepest condolence to their families. We grieved even for those who took part in this terrible crime and [words indistinct] as much as for the casualty on our side.

Above all, we grieved for the grave setback that this event has dealt to the cause of national reconciliation and peace. The government spared no efforts to resolve the hostage situation peacefully. The presence of Speaker Mitra and [break in transmission]. Those operations occurred when our commitment to peaceful means remains unshaken. Let there be no doubt about our equally strong efforts to protect our people from such brutal and senseless acts of violence. [Word indistinct] that our commitment to peace shall not derogate from this aim and higher duty to preserve the safety of our people. [end recording]

Zamboanga Hostage Crisis Ends

HK0801003689 Quezon City Sports Radio 738
in English 2300 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The 3-day hostage crisis in Zamboanga City is over. This came after government troopers recaptured the 9th PC-INP Regional Command complex, where

renegade policemen and constables held hostage and later executed Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla and his chief of staff, Colonel Abendan.

It took the troopers almost 24 hours to retake the camp from an estimated 30 renegades since the initial attack at 4:40 pm Friday, after negotiations for the release of the hostage officials failed. Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa, who was in Zamboanga to supervise the operation, said at least 16 bodies were recovered from the scene. Two of four charred remains found in a destroyed main building of the complex were believed to be that of Batalla and Abendan. De Villa said initial investigations show that Batalla was executed Thursday night, hours after the renegade group led by Rizal Ali held the general and his aide captive at 11:30 that same day. Abendan was also reportedly executed minutes before the assault on the camp at 4:40 Friday afternoon.

President Aquino has expressed deep sorrow and shock over the brutal death of PC-INP Region 9 Commander Brig Gen Eduardo Batalla and his chief of staff, Col Romeo Abendan. The chief executive said the government exerted every effort to resolve the hostage situation peacefully, but failed tragically. Extending her deepest condolences to the military officers' families, the president said the hostage event had set back the cause of national reconciliation and peace.

Mrs Aquino said her government's commitment to peace remains unshaken. However, she added that there should be no doubt about her government's equally strong resolve to protect the people from such brutal and senseless acts of violence.

Projected Foreign Aid for Coming Years Viewed
HK0501063189 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English
5 Jan 89 p 8

[By Raissa Espinosa-Robles]

[Text] Some \$6.039 billion will come into the country starting this year up to 1992 even without the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP).

Finance Undersecretary Ernest Leung clarified before the Senate yesterday that the PAP will bring in not \$10 billion in new money but only \$3.767 billion from 1989 to 1992.

He explained that 59.806 billion was estimated last November to be the "total funding requirement" needed to implement the Philippine Medium Term Development Plan prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) after consulting all executive departments, agencies and regional development councils.

Of this amount, \$6.039 billion will come from "existing commitments" while the remaining \$3.767 billion will hopefully be sourced through the PAP.

Confusion has arisen over the amount involved in the PAP because the original sum floated by the U.S. legislators who proposed the project was \$10 billion. Leung, however, explained to Senators Vicente Paterno and Alberto Romulo that the government considered how much it could realistically disburse through the given period and decided on the PAP with the implementation of the Medium Term Development Plan, which is supposed to be the country's blueprint for economic recovery.

"This (\$3.767 billion) is the amount we need to borrow to sustain the economic recovery," Leung said.

His briefing yesterday showed that some 40 percent of this \$3.767 billion already needs to come in this year but Paterno commented that "realistically, we cannot expect very much to happen in 1989."

Leung said that \$925-million worth of arranged loan disbursements from existing commitments are expected this year. But the country still needs an additional \$1.63 billion to meet the external financing gap including the reserves buildup. This will hopefully come from the PAP.

For next year, loan disbursements from arranged and indicative loans are worth \$1.55 billion. Hence, following the NEDA development plan, \$457 million more are needed.

In 1991, committed loans will come up to \$805 million. Therefore, \$964 million more need to be obtained. For 1992, \$611 million have been committed to be lent to the Philippines, which leaves a financing gap of \$716 million.

Leung stressed that the figures he gave were "planning figures" which would be refined over time. But it more or less gives a picture of the financial needs of the public and private sector, he said.

The government, however, could still end up borrowing less than \$3.767 billion if donor-countries and institutions decide to give grants, which are a "non-repayable type of external assistance." Leung said the government does not expect grant inflows to "continue at large levels."

In fact, grant inflows have been going down from around \$900 million in 1986, \$300 million in 1987, to some \$200 million in 1988. The level could increase in 1990 and 1991 because of the expected increase of the Economic Support Fund component in the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) package, he added. Hopefully through the PAP, the grant component could be increased. If not, participating countries and institutions could give more concessional loans, he said.

Thailand

Sitthi, Delegation Depart for SRV Visit

First Visit in 13 Years

OW0801030689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0202 GMT
8 Jan 89

[Text] Bangkok, Jan. 8 KYODO—Thailand's Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila will lead a Thai delegation on an official visit to Vietnam from Monday to Thursday, government officials said Saturday.

Sitthi's visit marks the first of its kind in nearly 13 years. Former Thai Foreign Minister Phichai Rattakun visited Hanoi in August 1976 to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries after Vietnam's reunification in 1975.

The Thai foreign minister first announced his plan to make this visit in early December, upon learning via Indian special envoy Natwar Singh of the Vietnamese plan to complete the withdrawal of 50,000 troops from Kampuchea by mid-December. Singh had visited Hanoi a week earlier.

A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman stated four reasons for the visit. First, it is in response to the repeated invitations made by Sitthi's Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Co Thach. Co Thach frequently visits Bangkok during his foreign trips and has met Sitthi on many occasions during his stopovers.

The second and main purpose of Sitthi's visit, the spokesman said, is for confidence-building between the two countries toward a political settlement in the 10-year-old Kampuchea problem.

Bilateral relations development is also high on the agenda of the visit, according to the Thai spokesman, and the final aim is to pave the way for a visit to Vietnam by Thai Premier Chatchai Chunnhawan in the near future.

Sitthi is scheduled to arrive at Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi at noon on Monday by a Thai special plane. He will meet Co Thach at a government guesthouse where they will hold two days of talks on the Kampuchean issue and bilateral ties.

On Wednesday, Sitthi will leave Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City where he will pay a courtesy call on Vietnamese Communist Party Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh and Premier Do Muoi, the spokesman said.

In Ho Chi Minh City, Sitthi will also make a visit to the former Thai Embassy site and some southern Vietnamese economic facilities, according to the spokesman.

Among Sitthi's party of 62 on this trip are a group of 12 Thai business persons and another group of 8 Thai academicians. The two groups will have separate meetings with their Vietnamese counterparts during the visit.

The business team comprises representatives from the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Thai Industries Association and the Thai Bankers Association as well as the Thai foreign minister's economic advisers.

Topics expected to be discussed by the Thai and Vietnamese business teams include potential expansion of trade, investment opportunities for the Thai side, as well as law and regulations.

The Thai academic team will hold discussions with their Vietnamese counterparts from the social science committee, which includes experts in economy, history, and social science.

Vietnam Visit Previewed

BK0701075989 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Press briefing by Chet Sucharitkun, director general of the Foreign Ministry Information Department, on Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila's 9-12 January visit to the SRV at the Foreign Ministry Information Center on 6 January—recorded]

[Text] The first objective of the foreign minister's visit is to respond to the invitation extended by the SRV foreign minister on several occasions. The second objective is to demonstrate Thailand's goodwill and constructive attitude and desire for peaceful coexistence with its neighboring countries. The next important objective of the visit is to create mutual trust—confidence-building to use the English term—which will help brighten up the atmosphere in the region in a search for a quicker settlement of the Cambodian problem. The final objective is to explore bilateral trade, particularly economic relations, in response to the prime minister's policy of transforming the battlefield in Indochina into a marketplace.

The foreign minister's official delegation will total 17 members; 10 members will accompany him in an unofficial capacity and there will be a 12-member delegation from the private sector. The private sector delegation will include representatives of the bankers association, the board of trade, the industries association, and economic advisers attached to the foreign minister. There will be eight academics and a 15-member media delegation, bringing the total of the entire team to 62.

The inclusion of private sector representatives shows clearly that Thailand is pleased and is ready to increase trade and investment with Vietnam.

Roughly, the itinerary calls for departure from Bangkok at 1015 on 9 January, arriving in Hanoi at noon. That afternoon there will be official consultations. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach will host a dinner in honor of the Thai foreign minister and his delegation at the reception residence. On the morning of 10 January, the foreign minister and delegation will lay wreaths at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Another round of consultations will follow. That evening the foreign minister will host a dinner in honor of his Vietnamese counterpart. At 1100 on 11 January, there will be a farewell function, with Minister Nguyen Co Thach seeing off the Thai delegation. At noon, the Thai delegation will leave for Ho Chi Minh City, arriving at 1400. That afternoon the foreign minister will call on CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and Prime Minister Do Muoi, to be followed by a call on the chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council, who will fete the foreign minister and delegation that evening. The next day, the Thai delegation will visit the site of the former Thai embassy in Saigon. At 1400, the delegation will leave for Bangkok.

In the SRV, the Thai private sector delegation will meet with the State Commission for Foreign Investment, the minister of external economic relations, and officials of the Chamber of Commerce, the [word indistinct] export-import commission, and the Vietnam commercial bank. The Thai academics will meet with officials of the Vietnamese social science committee and others.

Economic Dealings Sought

BK0701020189 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
7 Jan 89 p 2

[Excerpts] Thailand is willing and ready to expand economic relations with Vietnam, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chet Sucharitkun said yesterday.

As a gesture to demonstrate Thailand's intention to expand trade, 12 representatives from the private sector will visit Vietnam from next Monday to Thursday with the delegation led by Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi's visit to Vietnam signifies Thailand's wish for peaceful coexistence with neighbouring countries, Mr Chet said.

The visit would also improve the atmosphere in the region and speed up the Kampuchean peace process, he said. [passage omitted]

While in Vietnam, members of the Thai private sector will meet with Vietnam's State Commission for Foreign Investment, Minister of External Economic Relations, the Export and Import Commission and commercial bankers, Mr Chet said.

The Thai businessmen will discuss the list of goods that Thailand will trade, banking, payment and remittance systems, barter and counter-trade, investment, investment guarantees and ways to avoid double taxation.

A group of eight academics and university lecturers will also be with the delegation.

While in Hanoi, ACM Sitthi will meet his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Co Thach.

'Exclusive' Meeting Planned

BK0801033789 Bangkok THE NATION in English
8 Jan 89 p 4

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Co Thach has accepted Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila for their exclusive meeting to be held during the latter's trip to Hanoi early this week, informed sources said yesterday.

Sitthi is scheduled to visit Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City during Jan 9-12.

The sources said Vietnam had initially arranged only one session focusing on the Kampuchean conflict between its officials and Sitthi's 70-member delegation. But the Thai side asked that a second session be held which will involve the two delegations leaders only, according to the sources. [passage omitted]

Sitthi Comments Before Departing

BK0901073789 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister, accompanied by a delegation including members from the private sector and mass media, left today for a visit to Hanoi to strengthen friendly relations between Thailand and Vietnam. Before his departure, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila granted an interview to newsmen at the Royal Thai Air Force Command Airport.

[Begin Sitthi recording] Private sectors are joining the trip so they can gather more information before making further connections with Vietnamese counterparts in trade and investment, as well as academics who can exchange views with the Vietnamese academics. The information will be useful for us in forming relations with Vietnam. Let's call it "Relations 1990."

The other members are from the press. They will have a full opportunity to meet Vietnamese people in various areas. They will be given opportunities to take photographs of different places of interest to inform the Thai people about Vietnam. Before this trip, Vietnam presented pictures and articles about Thailand on its television. In turn, by the time we get back we will know more about Vietnam, too.

I hope we will achieve some success on this trip, although it may not be a perfect one. [end recording]

New Proposal Expected

BK0901011189 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
9 Jan 88 p 2

[By Somphong Kittinaradon: "Sitthi Carries New Proposal to Vietnam"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, who leaves for Hanoi today, is expected to propose that the "legal frameworks" of both the Phnom Penh and the resistance government be maintained while a new council to be chaired by resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk be set up as a provisional ruling body in the process of national reconciliation, informed sources said yesterday.

The "new face-saving formula" is aimed at breaking a major stumbling block to a political settlement on Kampuchea, the sources said.

Vietnam and the People Republic of Kampuchea led by Heng Samrin have rejected the resistance coalition's proposal that they both dismantle themselves to be replaced with a new legal identity that will run Kampuchea after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and cessation of all external support to rival Khmer factions.

But before reaching that stage of agreement the Thai delegation will first push with Vietnamese leaders for Vietnam's agreement that Kampuchea's national reconciliation be linked to a withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and cessation of external support.

Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime have demanded a linkage between troop pullout and a halt to external support. Vietnam said that if all parties concerned agree that all external support will be halted at the same time as the completion of troop withdrawal, the Vietnamese pullout will be stepped up and accomplished by September, 1989—15 months ahead of schedule.

But the Thai side will argue that they are ready to agree upon the linkage if that the deal includes the principles of national reconciliation. "In practical terms, the new council can be set up by September after the completion of the two other stages (withdrawal and cessation of support). Starting September, Kampuchea will enter a new ball game," said one of the sources.

However, the Thai delegation will reiterate that an international peace keeping force (IPKF) is a necessary mechanism to verify the steps in the settlement process, the sources said.

"We cannot budge on this position because we don't see an effective alternative to verify not only troop withdrawal but also the cessation of external support and maintain peace after the establishment of a new ruling council," said another of the sources.

Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime are opposed to the presence of IPKF claiming it would be a violation of Kampuchean sovereignty. In countering the Vietnamese stand on this particular point, the Thai delegation is expected to make the following points:

—IPKF has been recognized as a useful international mechanism to keep peace. This could be seen from the fact that the UNIPKF last year won the Nobel Peace Prize.

—Even Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has backed the mechanism as a necessary and useful means of enforcing the peace agreement in Afghanistan.

—If Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime raise the argument that the PRK is the legal government of Kampuchea, it would be countered by the fact that the CGDK is still recognized by the United Nations.

—On troop withdrawal, the Thai delegates believe that it will cover three aspects: the manner of withdrawal, the time-frame of withdrawal and verification. On time-frame the Thai delegates would not object the September deadline proposed by Vietnam and will take a flexible stand on the issue but on the manner of troops pullout, the Thai will insist that it should be conducted on territorial basis.

Foreign Ministry Praises SRV 'Pullout' Pledge

BK0701030989 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
7 Jan 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry yesterday welcomed Vietnam's pledge to withdraw all of its troops from Kampuchea by September provided there is a political settlement to the Kampuchean conflict.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Chet Sucharitkun said the offer "could be seen as Vietnam's positive response" to Foreign minister Sitthi Sawetsila's scheduled visit to Hanoi next week.

"If that (the pledge) is true, it is most welcome," Chet told a weekly news conference.

Sitthi, who will visit Vietnam between Jan 9-12, will discuss ways to end the Khmer conflict with Vietnamese leaders, he said.

Ho The Lan, spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, told *THE NATION* in Hanoi yesterday that the remaining 50,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea will be pulled out by September if there is a political settlement to the Kampuchean problem.

Vietnamese-installed President Heng Samrin also announced in Phnom Penh the new proposed withdrawal timetable.

While in Hanoi, Sitthi is scheduled to discuss with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Co Thach, a "package deal" to settle the Kampuchean conflict.

The proposed package deal was raised during the visit to Hanoi by a Thai advance team last week.

It focuses on the proposal for an international peace-keeping force, the linkage between Vietnamese troop withdrawal and the cessation of foreign aid to the Khmer resistance forces, the future of the Phnom Penh government and the proposed four-party Kampuchean coalition government. [passage omitted]

Chawalit Doubts U.S. Reports on Burmese Students
BK0801021889 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
8 Jan 89 p 6

[Text] Reports that Burmese students are being killed by the military regime on return to Rangoon should be dismissed out of hand, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Gen Chawalit who recently visited Burma and played a role in arranging the return of Burmese students who had fled to Thailand, said the reports cannot be verified but the military is concerned and is watching the situation.

The US State Department said on Thursday that the US had received credible reports that about 50 student returnees have died while in the military regime's custody.

Gen Chawalit said the claim arose out of US concern for human rights and should be listened to.

However, the truth is still not known.

"We have to listen with one ear and give the other one a rest," Gen Chawalit said.

He said that some of the students the Thai military helped to send back have returned to take more students back home.

"It doesn't look as if anything bad is happening. They (the students) seem to be happy after having gone home," Gen Chawalit said.

He said that Gen Saw Maung reaffirmed during the visit that he wanted to establish democracy in Burma according to the wishes of the people.

Gen Chawalit said this was a Burmese internal affair and should be left to its government and people to work out.

"I think it's just a matter of time," he said when asked when Burma would become a democracy.

But he said it would be a drastic social change.

"We still maintain direct contacts with Burma, so I think we should be optimistic and look on the bright side.

"We have to understand their problem, though we are concerned about the students' safety and are following the news," he said.

He did not agree with the suggestion that the Red Cross be allowed to monitor the situation inside Burma, saying it would be interference in Burmese affairs.

Asked about the Saw Maung Government's demand that Thailand close the reception centre for dissident students at the border and in Bangkok within three months, Gen Chawalit said this was flexible because the previous deadline had been this month.

"The deadline is not a measure of anything. If there is goodwill this can be extended," he said.

Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Charuai Wongsayan also said he did not believe the Saw Maung regime was killing students who had returned.

"I don't think Gen Saw Maung would do this. The people leaking the news may want the students to stop going back," he said.

Responsibility to Students Noted

BK0701032189 Bangkok THE NATION in English
7 Jan 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Moral Responsibility of Thai Military Must Be Met"]

[Text] For several weeks there have been rumours that many of the Burmese students and other dissidents who returned under a general amnesty offered by the Burmese military regime have been detained for political reasons and that some have been tortured and murdered.

Yesterday a US State Department spokeswoman reported that the US has been checking into "credible reports" that about 50 Burmese students may have been arrested and some have died while under official custody.

The Burmese military regime immediately denied the arrest or torture of any of the returnees. Thai Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong has expressed disbelief that the Burmese military leaders would break their promise of a safe return or that they harmed or harassed the returnees.

Outsiders, especially all those who have no direct connection with the Burmese students and other dissidents, have no way of verifying the claims of any of the parties. But efforts must be made to verify them by all means, so that the truth will come out.

The US may have its own ways of checking into the so-called "credible reports". But so far, the US has found no conclusive evidence of harassment and violence against the returnees.

Nearly 2,000 of Burmese students and other dissidents have surrendered to the Burmese military regime. But the Thai military was instrumental in repatriating only 153 of them during the past two weeks. They were flown home from the provincial airport in Tak in northern Thailand under a programme worked out between acting-Supreme Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his Burmese "brother", Gen Saw Maung. The Thai military thus has, at least, a direct moral responsibility of seeing that all 153 are actually safe in Burma.

The question we want to ask the Thai military again is whether it has any way to monitor the well-being of these 153 returnees under the Tak-Rangoon repatriation programme.

The Thai military cannot deny responsibility by claiming non-interference in the internal affairs of Burma because it is a direct and active partner in the repatriation programme. Most of the Burmese students and other dissidents who returned to Burma under this programme did so not because they trusted the Saw Maung regime, but because they thought Gen Chawalit would be the guarantor of their safe return, and they had no better choices.

Moreover, Thai military personnel have actively persuaded Burmese students and other dissidents in Thailand and at the border to return under this repatriation programme. And Thai police have threatened to arrest those who want to stay here on the charge of illegal entry.

To say that the returnees joined the programme under their free will, as General Sunthon did, is to gloss over the Thai military's conspicuous role in this situation.

As for the Burmese military regime, its denial of harassment and arrest of the returnees will not stop all the rumours unless and until independent observers, as well as international journalists, are permitted direct and free access to the returnees. Denying such contact is a violation of universal human rights.

Senate 'Unanimously' Approves Budget for 1989
BK0701041189 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
7 Jan 89 p 2

[Excerpt] The Senate yesterday unanimously approved the 285,500 million baht budget for fiscal 1989 after more than two hours of debate, believed to be the longest-ever session held by the Senate. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

PRK National Day Celebrated, Commemorated

Defense Minister Comments

BK0701151289 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2330 GMT 5 Jan 89

[“Excerpt” from article by Senior General Le Duc Anh, SRV defense minister and member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, entitled: “The Cambodian Revolution’s Victory Is Irreversible,” published in the January 1989 issue of QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN]

[Text] Ten years ago, to defend their fatherland, oppose the Pol Pot clique’s war of aggression and their extremely barbarous acts against our people, and answer the earnest appeal of the Kampuchean Front for National Salvation and the Cambodian people who were facing genocide, Vietnamese Army units—after successively defeating several intrusive attacks on their country’s southwestern border, and implementing a decision by the SRV state—launched a lightning counterattack on Cambodia, hitting right at the den of the genocidal aggressors in Phnom Penh and achieving the lofty historic mission of coordinating with the Cambodian revolutionary forces to overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Following that, the Vietnamese Army volunteers—together with the Cambodian people and their Armed Forces—continued the struggle to defend the Cambodian territory and the revolutionary gains, and assisted the Cambodian people in their rebirth and the building of strong political establishment and Armed Forces for the Cambodian revolution so that the people could gradually advance toward mastering their national construction and defense, and protect their revolutionary gains.

In the tragic initial stage of the country left behind by the genocidal regime and subsequent to the 7 January 1979 victory, as requested by the Cambodian revolutionary administration, Vietnamese Army volunteer units spread throughout the Cambodian territory, which was still full of grisly, mournful events. They went deep into all villages and communes and every corner of the forests, mountains, rivers, and streams to continually fight the enemy, rescue the people, and industriously perform tasks such as saving the people from starvation, giving medical care and treatment to the people, helping the people return to their native places, stabilizing the people’s livelihood and production, establishing solidarity production teams and militia forces in villages and hamlets, and so forth. They actively contributed to quickly stabilizing the people’s normal life, and restored social order in the revolution’s embryonic stage.

Then, through many long years, Vietnamese Army volunteer units and experts—in close coordination with various sectors and localities in our country, and disregarding sacrifices and hardships—sided with the Cambodian troops and people to fight bravely, resiliently,

and continuously; defeated all of the enemy's frenzied counterattacks; constantly preserved and expanded the revolution's mastery over the entire country; and, at the same time, perseveringly helped their friends build an ever stronger revolutionary Armed Forces.

Our troops further actively supported their friends in building and consolidating bases in hamlets and villages, and establishing and promoting the revolutionary mass movements. It should be clearly stated that throughout the past 10 years, our cadres and combatants have had to fight and work continuously on the battlefields of our friends under extremely difficult, dangerous conditions and inclement weather where malaria threatened regularly, material and spiritual lives were lacking, and a language barrier prevailed. Their dependents in the rear also encountered many difficulties in their everyday life.

Although the combat duty and the task of helping friends were very heavy, diverse, and complex, and the intensity of labor and combat was constantly pressing, large numbers of our cadres and combatants always upheld their pure, shining proletarian internationalism, persisted in fighting and working, resiliently and actively overcame all difficulties and privations, and fulfilled their combat duty and their mission of helping friends well.

Many typical examples of revolutionary heroism and pure, shining proletarian internationalism—which clearly manifest the fine nature and traditions of the Vietnamese People's Army and Uncle Ho's soldiers—appeared constantly. They created very good impressions on our friends and have become a cause of confidence and a mainstay for the Cambodian people and their Armed Forces.

Comrade Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, and chairman of the National Assembly and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, clearly pointed out this lofty quality of our troops: What our party, government, army, and Cambodian people will forever hold deep in their hearts is your lofty proletarian internationalism in assisting the Cambodian Army and people—Comrade Chea Sim's speech at the PRK state ceremony to award the Angkor Order to the volunteer army headquarters and Vietnamese military specialists on 29 June 1988 in Phnom Penh.

After 10 years of construction and combat, Cambodia has truly revived. The Cambodian revolutionary forces have gradually progressed to take over all national defense and construction tasks. The Cambodian revolution's victory is irreversible.

Our party, state, people, and troops are very honored to have worthily contributed to this historic victory of the Cambodian party, Government, and fraternal people. During the years of performing international obligations in Cambodia, cadres and combatants of the volunteer army and Vietnamese specialist teams have always

received much sympathy and devoted protection and care from the Cambodian party, state, people, and troops, as if they were their own kin, and close combat coordination with the Cambodian revolutionary forces, which have acquired and creatively applied the Vietnamese experiences.

The growth of the Cambodian revolutionary forces has created conditions for the Vietnamese Army volunteers to partially withdraw every year. It has given Vietnam more favorable conditions for national construction and defense, and helped intensify the position and strength of the revolution in the three Indochinese countries.

Our party, government, people, and troops will never forget this great assistance and support. On this great festive occasion for the Angkor territory, our people and troops would like to convey their sincere gratitude to the party, government, people, and revolutionary Armed Forces of Cambodia.

We are very encouraged to realize that the close, loyal relations, the friendship of sharing weal and woe together, and the readiness to wholeheartedly assist each other have been strenuously cultivated during the long struggle against our common colonialist and imperialist enemies. Through the long ordeal, the special Vietnam-Cambodia solidarity has been raised to a new height to become a priceless, precious asset for both nations in present and future generations.

We sincerely wish the friendly Cambodian people even more and greater victories in their national construction and defense and their struggle for peace and national reconciliation to repel crimes and bring happiness to all people throughout Cambodia.

As for the Vietnamese Army volunteers who are still performing their international duties on Cambodian territory, we would like to convey our cordial greetings and wish good health to all our beloved cadres and combatants. May you, comrades, continue to uphold genuine patriotism and pure, shining proletarian internationalism, do your utmost in helping our friends, score even more victories, make effective contributions to other aspects of the struggle to reach a principled political solution in order to truthfully respond to the Cambodian people's aspirations, be a guarantee for the Cambodian people's revolution to continuously advance in the new situation, and be ready to actively cope with all situations.

PRK Envoy Broadcasts Message

*BK0701150989 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[PRK Ambassador Tep Hen's statement to "Voice of Vietnam" radio listeners on the occasion of the 10th PRK National Day, 7 January—recorded in Cambodian fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] "Dear listeners of the Voice of Vietnam Radio: It is my great honor to speak over the Voice of Vietnam Radio on the occasion of the grand celebration of the 10th national day of the Cambodian Revolution—7 January."

On 7 January 1979 the Cambodian people, supported by the Communist Party, people, and Army of Vietnam, rose up to overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime, founded the PRK, and rebuilt their glorious Angkor fatherland which had been being wrecked to the foundations by the genocidal Pol Pot clique.

On behalf of the KPRP, the government, Army, and people of Cambodia, I would like to extend to you, to the leading comrades of the party, state, and army, specialists, and to the people of Vietnam, my best regards and warmest fraternal sentiments and my best wishes for good health in the new year and for new, greater successes in the building and development of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

Today the party, people, and army of Cambodia are, with great elation, grandly celebrating this historic anniversary. "Adhering to the strategic tasks of the party, they are determined to foil all the perfidious schemes of the enemy who is now in a state of anarchy, to proceed toward driving him to disintegration and total defeat, to take the revolutionary undertaking steadily forward, and to constantly develop the strategic alliance bloc between the three Indochinese countries in the causes of building and defending the fatherland, safeguarding the revolutionary gains, and advancing step by step to socialism."

Although there are still many difficulties and obstacles to be overcome, thanks to the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the KPRP, "the Cambodian people have enthusiastically participated in the cause of safeguarding their fatherland and restoring their economic, cultural, social, public health, and diplomatic activities and have brought about numerous praiseworthy changes and developments, especially in the four spearhead economic targets—namely food grain, rubber, timber, and marine products."

Dear listeners: The PRK is now 10 years old. This has been 10 years of rigorous struggle between our people and those counterrevolutionaries who are undermining the Cambodian people's process of revival. "For 7 consecutive years, we have undertaken the partial withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers. We have just withdrawn a significant part of the troops—50,000 men—reducing the remaining Vietnamese Army volunteers to one-fourth. And it is likely that the remainder will be withdrawn from Cambodia before 1990 if a political solution to the Cambodian issue is reached. World public opinion has approved and welcomed this goodwill attitude of Vietnam. This fact was reflected by the many local and foreign news correspondents and observers who were present in Cambodia during the seventh troop withdrawal. This attests to the maturity of the Cambodian Revolutionary Armed Forces and their ability to defend their fatherland and demonstrates a firm belief in the strength of the armed forces as well as the determination of the Cambodian people to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from making a comeback."

In view of this matter, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers and foreign minister, has affirmed: "This pullout of Vietnamese troops is a step toward withdrawing all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Any political solution to the Cambodian issue must be based on the principle of respect for the self-determination and legitimate interests of the Cambodian people, must link the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers with the prevention of Pol Pot from returning to power, with the cessation of foreign aid to the Khmer opposition forces, and with an end to foreign interference into the internal affairs of Cambodia."

At the recent high-level meeting of Cambodian factions in Paris, the Khmer opposition side demanded a revision of the contents of a solution to the Cambodian problem already agreed at the July 1988 Jakarta informal meeting. This demand has further complicated the Cambodian situation. However, "we will participate in the coming second informal meeting in Jakarta."

"We are fully aware that efforts to revive Cambodia over the past 10 years have been made possible with the sweat, blood, and bones not only of the Cambodian people but also of the Vietnamese party cadres, members and soldiers. Since 1979, the relations of cooperation and the all-round assistance given by Vietnam have contributed to restoring and further developing the Cambodian economy and have helped Cambodia overcome numerous difficulties in gradually stabilizing the lives of its people. Simultaneously, these have also helped further tighten the strategic alliance bloc—the fundamental factor for the existence and development of the Cambodian revolution."

The history of our Cambodian nation will engrave forever these great meritorious deeds of Vietnamese experts and army volunteers. We pledge to always foster the special military solidarity between Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos.

On this occasion, on behalf of the party, front, Army, and people of Cambodia, I would like to extend my respect for and profound gratitude to the great socialist family with the Soviet Union as a prop and as a bastion of world peace, to friends near and far, to India, to international organizations, and especially to the party, government, and the heroic Army and people of Vietnam.

"I also would like to extend my solicitous regards with warmest sentiments and sincere and profound gratitude to the families of Vietnamese fallen heroes and those disabled and sick Vietnamese soldiers for having made sacrifices for our Angkor fatherland.

"May the militant solidarity, the special relations of friendship, and the all-round cooperation between Cambodia and Vietnam as well as between Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos last forever.

"I wish the fraternal Vietnamese people good health and successes.

"Thank you."

Ambassador Gives Reception

BK0801024689 Hanoi VNA in English 1550 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA 7 January—Tep Hen, ambassador of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to Vietnam, gave a reception here tonight on the occasion of the PRK's 10th National Day (7 January).

Among his Vietnamese guests were Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and president of the State Council; Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front; and Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister. Ambassador Tep Hen and President Vo Chi Cong raised toasts to the Kampuchean people's great achievements recorded in the past 10 years, and to the everlasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Kampuchea and Vietnam as well as among Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Laos.

Public Security Force Marks Day

BK0801144589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Commemorating the 10th anniversaries of the PRK national day and the signing of the SRV-PRK Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, 7 January 1979-1989, the SRV Ministry of Interior on 6 January held a cordial get-together with officers and combatants of the people's public security force who have carried out international obligations in Cambodia.

On behalf of the Ministry of Interior, Comrade Cao Dang Phiem, CPV Central Committee member and deputy minister of the interior, pointed out that over the past 10 years, imbued with the spirit of proletarian internationalism, officers and combatants of the people's public security force have, together with the VPA and their Cambodian comrades in arms, fought against the common enemy, maintained national security and social order and safety, and protected revolutionary gains and the peaceful life of the fraternal Cambodian people.

At this meaningful get-together, many officers and combatants who had fought and worked in Cambodia recalled their profound memories of their stay there to carry out the international obligation for the revival of Cambodia.

Editorial Marks Occasion

BK0701083989 Hanoi VNA in English
0729 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 7—The new decision jointly made by Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea on the total repatriation of the Vietnamese volunteer army from Kampuchea by September 1989 if there is a political

solution to the Kampuchea issue is a new testimony to their goodwill and determination to achieve an equitable solution, says the national daily NHAN DAN in an editorial marking the 10th national day of the PRK.

The paper adds that this decision also is a convincing proof of the steady growth of the PRK.

The paper continues: "Far-reaching changes that took place in the socioeconomic life in that country over the past ten years are obvious to any objective observer. Rising from death and ruins left by the genocide the whole Kampuchean society has revived and developed in both its infrastructure and superstructure. In some domains, the accomplishments have even surpassed those in the period before 1975.

"The PRK's international prestige and position have been constantly increased. This can be seen most clearly in Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's recent statement on his readiness to welcome Chairman Hun Sen to Bangkok. The PRK's foreign policy of peace, friendship and cooperation has won broader sympathy and support in all continents," the paper notes.

Army Paper on SRV-PRK Plan for Cambodia

BK0701091989 Hanoi VNA in English 0724 GMT
7 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 7—The army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today says that a path has been opened for the settlement of the Kampuchean question.

The paper is referring to statements made by Vietnamese party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and Kampuchean President Heng Samrin at the meeting in Phnom Penh yesterday in celebration of the 10th national day of the People's Republic of Kampuchea about the withdrawal of all remaining Vietnamese army volunteers from the country not later than September 1989 if a political solution to the Kampuchea issue is attained.

"This," says the paper, "is an affirmation of their confidence in the justness and the actual strength of the Kampuchean revolution. On the other hand, this has manifested the goodwill and high determination of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) to solve the Kampuchean question by political means, which conforms to the Kampuchean people's ardent desire to live in peace and to the prevailing trend in the region and the world of switching from confrontation to dialogue."

The paper goes on: "Vietnam and Kampuchea want a comprehensive political solution for both the domestic and international aspects of the Kampuchea problem, which has the common aims of ending outside intervention, exercising the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination and ruling out the Pol Pot genocidal clique's return to power in Kampuchea.

"To settle the international aspect of the problem will be a positive step toward achieving an overall solution, and the internal aspect must, of course, be settled by the Kampuchean parties themselves."

"The PRK and the SRV believe that a political solution to the Kampuchean issue could be reached this year if the parties concerned show their goodwill and adopt practical viewpoints. In the current search for a political solution to the Kampuchean problem, the gap between the parties' positions has been narrowed down, but differences still remain. It is, therefore, imperative for them to carry on the dialogue. For its part, the SRV is always prepared to sit down to the negotiating table anywhere and at any time, with good faith in seeking a fair and equitable solution to the Kampuchean question."

NHAN DAN Hails Troop Withdrawal

*BK0701121889 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 7 Jan 89*

[Text] The press also carried Vietnamese party leader Nguyen Van Linh's statement that Vietnam agrees with the People's Republic of Kampuchea on the withdrawal of all its troops from Kampuchea before September 1989. This must go together with an end to all foreign military aid to all Kampuchean factions and cessation of the use of foreign territory as sanctuary against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Commenting on a recent decision on Vietnamese troop withdrawal, NHAN DAN stressed that this is a manifestation of Vietnam's and the PRK's goodwill and determination for a fair and reasonable solution to the Kampuchean issue.

This decision, NHAN DAN added, also proves the strength of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Commentary on Cambodian Withdrawal Issue

*OW0901083389 Hanoi International Service
in Mandarin 1130 GMT 6 Jan 88*

[Station commentary: "Consistent Sincerity of SRV, PRK"]

[Text] As reported earlier by this station, at a rally in Phnom Penh this afternoon, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP and chairman of the State Council, announced the decision of the PRK and SRV in which the Vietnamese volunteer army stationed in the PRK will withdraw completely before September 1989 within the framework of a political solution to the Cambodian issue.

In addition to the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops stationed in PRK, this political solution also calls for a cease-fire, an end to the provision of military aid and sanctuary by foreign countries to all opposing factions in Cambodia, and an end to interference with the internal affairs of Cambodia. All these issues must be carried out under international supervision.

Chairman Heng Samrin also pointed out: The PRK hopes that the relevant countries and parties participating in the political solution to the Cambodian issue will abide by and fulfill their commitments.

In his speech, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, pointed out: Vietnam completely agrees with the Cambodian Government's decision to withdraw all Vietnamese volunteer troops stationed in Cambodia by September 1989.

This has once again emphasized the efforts undertaken by Vietnam and the PRK to find a solution to the Cambodia issue. Following its withdrawal of 50,000 men from Cambodia in 1988, Vietnam has again pledged to withdraw its remaining volunteer troops by September 1989 within the framework of a political solution to the Cambodian issue. This indicates that Vietnam has always strictly abided by the measures it proposed to pave the way for appropriate steps to resolve the Cambodian issue.

In the past, many foreign observers have been to Phnom Penh and other parts of Cambodia to witness for themselves the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer army from Cambodia. They have seen the sincerity of Vietnam. Many of their reports from Phnom Penh have described Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia as real and serious. The AFP correspondent (Kaladi Fanwet) said: Like previous withdrawals, the seventh withdrawal of the Vietnamese Army is real and in line with the announcement of the Vietnamese Government to withdraw all troops from Cambodia by 1990.

We believe the agreement to withdraw the Vietnamese volunteer army completely from Cambodia by September 1988 will speed up the process of finding a political solution to the Cambodian issue. It is clear that foreign countries play an important role in the Cambodian issue. Therefore, the remaining issue is stopping military aid to the various opposing Cambodian factions.

The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Vietnam has also held that the domestic aspects of the Cambodian issue must be resolved by the Cambodian parties themselves. Vietnam will respect all agreements to be reached by the various Cambodian parties.

However, to fully reflect the significance of this announcement, it is necessary to mention outstanding developments in the PRK. World opinion has argued that if the PRK cannot defend itself, Vietnam cannot withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

A commentary in THE WASHINGTON POST stated that diplomats stationed in Phnom Penh believe that the current situation in Cambodia is much better than before. They also feel that the PRK military forces will be able to cope with any offensive by the Khmer Rouge after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

The PRK has not only made achievements in the military field during the last 10 years, but also developed by leaps and bounds in other areas after freeing itself from the catastrophe of genocide. Considerable progress has been made in all the four economic targets of grain production, rubber cultivation, timber exploitation, and fishing. Grain production increased from 17 million to 20 million tonnes in 10 years. Much progress has also been made in education, health, and culture. The stable and strong power structure of local and central authorities, and the expansion of the regular army, the territorial army, and the militia are key and decisive factors that have enabled Cambodia to move steadily forward from nothing despite threats and provocations from every hostile force.

Commemorating their 10th National Day, the Cambodian people have put more confidence in their strength and international friends, particularly Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, and other progressive forces. The PRK has clearly pointed out in many statements that to reach a settlement on the Cambodian issue, it is necessary to place national interests above all.

The PRK's seven-point proposal and other proposals jointly put forth by Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia as well as the seven-point proposal made by LPDR have demonstrated the wish of the three Indochinese countries to make Southeast Asia a zone of peace and turn confrontation into dialogue, and it demonstrates their sincerity to seek a just and appropriate solution to the Cambodian issue.

Detente emerged in the world last year, and new developments in relations between big world powers as well as in the region have enabled us to feel optimistic and confident that the date for a political solution to the Cambodian issue is not far off. For its part, the SRV has always demonstrated its sincerity and has done its best to achieve this.

The recent agreement to withdraw the Vietnamese volunteer army completely from Cambodia before September 1989 within the framework of a political solution is a shining example of this sincerity.

Radio Views PRK, SRV Peace Stand

*BK0601135589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[Station commentary: "The Shining Goodwill of Vietnam and the PRK"]

[Text] This morning in Phnom Penh, Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP and chairman of the Cambodian Council of State, made public a PRK-SRV agreement that the entire Vietnamese volunteer army will be completely withdrawn home no later than September 1989 within the framework of a political solution to the Cambodian issue.

This political solution calls for the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and, together with a cease-fire, an end to the provision of military aid and sanctuary by foreign countries to Cambodian opposition parties and to interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia. All these agreements must be carried out under effective international supervision.

Chairman Heng Samrin also pointed out: The PRK hopes that all countries and parties taking part in a political solution to the Cambodian issue will respect and strictly observe their commitments.

In his speech at the same meeting, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, head of the high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation to the 10th PRK national day celebrations, said: Today Vietnam declares that it totally agrees with the PRK over a decision to withdraw all of the remaining Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia by September 1989.

The public has once again had an opportunity to clearly see the goodwill of Vietnam and the PRK in their efforts to contribute to finding a solution to the Cambodian issue. Following the withdrawal of 50,000 Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia in 1988, the pledge to withdraw all of the remaining Vietnamese troops from between now and September 1989 within the framework of a political solution to the Cambodian issue shows that Vietnam has always been serious in taking steps to contribute to promptly finding a satisfactory political solution to the Cambodian issue which has long been a broad concern of world public opinion.

Those foreign correspondents in Phnom Penh and other localities in Cambodia to witness the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers have seen with their own eyes the many manifestations of goodwill on the part of Vietnam. Many of their dispatches from Phnom Penh have observed that the withdrawals of Vietnamese troops are scrupulous and true. Many Western journalists have agreed with the observation by AFP correspondent [name indistinct] who said: As in previous troop withdrawals, in this seventh troop withdrawal I think that Vietnam has truly withdrawn its troops as declared by the Vietnamese Government that it will gradually and eventually completely withdraw all of its troops from Cambodia by 1990.

It is certain that the announcement on the agreement over the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers before September 1989 will speed up the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

It should be further noted that with this move, Vietnam and the PRK have taken the initiative in moving one step ahead with the aim of pressing for a solution to the Cambodian issue. The international aspect of the Cambodian issue has thus become clear. The problem remains the ending of foreign military aid to the Cambodian opposition parties as was stated by a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry. As in the past,

Vietnam holds that the internal aspect of the Cambodian issue must be resolved by Cambodian parties concerned. Vietnam will respect all agreements to be reached between the Cambodian parties concerned.

However, to be fully aware of the significance of the recent announcement, it is necessary to mention the outstanding growth of the PRK. As noted by foreign public opinion, Vietnam could not withdraw its troops from Cambodia if the PRK Government was not strong enough to protect itself.

As noted by THE WASHINGTON POST, diplomats in Phnom Penh believe that the situation in Cambodia is now much better than in the past, and they maintain that the PRK military forces are capable of coping with an offensive by the Khmer Rouge after the repatriation of Vietnamese troops.

The PRK's achievements, not only in the military field but in all other fields, over the past 10 years attest to the stupenous growth of this country after extricating itself from the genocidal catastrophe. Considerable progress has been made in all the four targets—grain production, rubber production, timber exploitation, and fishing.

Commemorating their 10th national day, the Cambodian people place even more confidence in their forces and the support of their international friends, especially Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, and other progressive forces. In many of its statements, the PRK has pointed out clearly that to reach a solution to the Cambodian issue, it is necessary to put national interests above all.

The PRK's seven-point proposal and other proposals jointly put forth by Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, as well as the LPDR's seven-point proposal, have demonstrated the willingness of the three Indochinese countries to make Southeast Asia a zone of peace and turn confrontation into dialogue on the basis of an equitable and appropriate solution to the Cambodian issue.

Detente emerged in the world last year and new developments in relations between the powerful countries in the world as well as in the region allow us to be optimistic and confident in the effort to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem at an early date. For its part, the SRV has always demonstrated its goodwill and has done its best to achieve such a solution.

The recent agreement on the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia before September 1989 within the framework of a political solution is a shining example of that goodwill.

PRC Acclaims Decision on Troop Pullout

BK0901102989 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] China has acclaimed the recent decision of Kampuchea and Vietnam for the withdrawal the remaining Vietnamese Army volunteers from Kampuchea no later than September 1989 within the framework of a political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry considered this decision a step forward and affirmed that if this decision is implemented, China will help all parties concerned reach an overall political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

Hanoi Cites Soviet Support for Troop Withdrawal

BK0801125789 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Soviet Foreign Ministry on Saturday [7 January] issued a statement hailing Vietnam's and Kampuchea's decision to withdraw all the remaining Vietnamese Army volunteers from Kampuchea not later than September 1989 within the framework of a political solution to the Kampuchean issue. This new initiative of Vietnam and Kampuchea opens a prospect for the removal of the tension in the region this year. The Soviet Union held that such an opportunity cannot be lost.

The statement pointed out that it is a primary task for all parties concerned to ensure that there will be no fratricidal war and that the genocidal Pol Pot clique cannot exist under any form after the withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea.

The statement affirmed that the Soviet Union will contribute to seeking a political solution in the region.

Soviet Statement Quoted on Troop Withdrawal

BK0801160189 Hanoi VNA in English 1541 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 8—The Soviet Union has welcomed the agreement reached by the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in withdrawing all the remaining Vietnamese volunteer troops from Kampuchea by September 1989 at the latest if a political solution is achieved.

In a statement released on Jan. 7, the Soviet Foreign Ministry said:

"The Soviet Union warmly welcomes and fully supports that important move of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—a move in the main direction of development of our present-day world—to solve regional conflicts by political means. Kampuchea and Vietnam have once again shown their good will and their desire to reach an overall solution in Indochina on the basis of respecting the fundamental aspirations of the Kampuchean people and considering the realities that have taken shape in the region. The statements made by the leaders of the two countries have opened up a prospect of easing tension in the region within this year, and the Soviet Union holds that this opportunity should not be missed".

"For all the belligerent parties and the countries concerned", the statement continued, "a task of profound significance has come up—that of ensuring that

no fratricidal war will break out again and the policy and reality of the Pol Pot genocidal regime will not be repeated after the foreign troops are withdrawn from Kampuchea".

"For its part, the Soviet Union will continue to strive by all means for a political solution in that region of the world. What is important is how to get a warm response to this constructive initiative of Kampuchea and Vietnam from all those who are really interested in creating an atmosphere of peace, good neighborliness and cooperation in Southeast Asia".

TASS on Settling Cambodian Issue

BK0901070289 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] On 6 January TASS carries a commentary greeting the PRK's national day. The commentary clearly pointed out: Ten years is a short period in the history of a country, but it can be affirmed that during the past 10 years the PRK has scored great achievements.

The commentary stressed: The Soviet Union welcomes the policy of national reconciliation announced by the PRK in August 1987. For its part, the Soviet Union wants to contribute to creating a favorable atmosphere for settling the conflict. In this matter, the Soviet Union holds that the internal aspects of the issue must be solved by the Kampucheans themselves.

Thai Spokesman Hails Troop Withdrawal Decision

BK0701110689 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The Thai Foreign Ministry has hailed a decision of Kampuchea and Vietnam on the total repatriation of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea by September 1989 if there is a political solution.

Speaking at a press conference in Bangkok on Friday, a spokesman for the Thai Foreign Ministry, Chet Sucharitkun, held that this decision is good news for those who are interested in the Kampuchean issue.

Mr Chet Sucharitkun also said: This decision is warmly welcomed by Thailand, for the Thai foreign minister plans to visit Vietnam this week.

Do Muoi Interview With Thai Newspaper

BK0901021589 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] Following are excerpts from an interview given by Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi to THE NATION's senior reporter Kawi Chongkitthawon who is currently visiting Hanoi. The questions were submitted in advance and the answers were given over the weekend.

Q: Both Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila will visit Vietnam. (Sitthi is arriving in Hanoi today) What will be the significance of these visits?

A: The visits would mark a turning point in relations between the two nations and contribute to building a new period of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Q: What are the outstanding issues between Thailand and Vietnam that you are likely to raise during talks with the Thai leaders in Hanoi?

A: The outstanding issue is how to carry out the far-sighted initiative of the (Thai) Prime Minister, that is to turn Indochina from a battlefield into a marketplace. We shall discuss practical measures to strengthen our friendly relations, especially in the field of economic cooperation.

Q: How do you like to see the future Thai-Vietnamese relations? Is there any cooperation that you would like to see between the two countries?

A: Both Vietnam and Thailand are located in Southeast Asia as close neighbours having traditional ties and sharing common practices of the water-rice civilization. All these are favourable conditions for our mutual understanding and cooperation. We wish to see our two peoples be loyal and trusted friends forever. The relationship between our two nations must be built on the basis of long-term cooperation and on the principles of equality, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, mutual benefit and mutual confidence, in the interests of the peoples of Vietnam and Thailand as well as those of all the other nations in Southeast Asia.

Q: Vietnam, as well as other Indochinese countries, have criticized foreign arms stockpiles in Thailand. Do you think these stockpiles are warranted in the region given the improved regional political atmosphere?

A: It is our view that the establishment of long-term cooperation and friendship among nations would serve as the strongest guarantee for peace and security of each country. Weapons stockpiles are not instruments for peace and security, yet, quite the contrary.

Q: Is there any possibility that Vietnam will ask the Soviet Union to leave Cam Ranh Bay? Do you support the joint removal of superpower bases from the region?

A: Vietnam does not approve the presence of foreign military bases on the territory of other countries.

Cam Ranh is a Vietnamese base. It is our sovereignty to allow vessels from friendly countries to call there for logistical supplies. We have allowed Soviet naval vessels

into Cam Ranh for logistical and technical supplies. Whether the Soviet Union will continue or discontinue these logistical and technical supplies is Soviet affairs.

Q: Thailand has to compete with other foreign countries in investing in Vietnam. In concrete terms, what can Thailand do to contribute to the economic development of Vietnam?

A: Thailand enjoys favourable conditions for cooperation with and participation in economic development in Vietnam. We have issued the Foreign Investment Law and its by-laws to facilitate foreigners' investment in Vietnam.

Recently, Thai private companies and businessmen have come to research Vietnamese markets. This is a good sign demonstrating the essence of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's statement that he wants to turn Indochina from a battlefield into a marketplace.

Q: Can you tell us exactly how many Vietnamese troops are still inside Kampuchea? Western intelligence claimed that so far this year Vietnam withdrew only about 20,000 of the 50,000 troops pledged by your government?

A: By December 31, 1988, we have completed the withdrawal of three quarters (3/4) of Vietnamese volunteer forces from Kampuchea. The remaining fifty thousand (50,000) troops will be completely withdrawn by the end of 1990 even though there is no solution to the Kampuchean problem. (Hanoi announced last week it would withdraw its remaining troops from Kampuchea by September if there is a political settlement to the Kampuchean conflict).

The plan for withdrawals of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea has been carried out step by step beginning in 1982. This is a strategy of troop withdrawals coupled with growing strength of the PRK armed forces. These withdrawals have not been undertaken for propaganda purposes. We are pleased that we have been able to fulfill our plan for troop withdrawals. The West may or may not believe it and it is their right. This will not affect Vietnam's plan for troop withdrawals.

Q: Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked the PRK government to dismantle itself to pave the way for the establishment of a four-party government. What is the best way to deal with the prince's demand?

A: During the last ten years, the most intense military efforts of the Tripartite Coalition (anti-Vietnamese resistance group) supported by outside forces failed to remove the PRK. Such a demand is absolutely unrealistic. The best way is for Prince Sihanouk to respect the reality in Kampuchea and to make proposals which respond to the Kampuchean people's wishes that they be left alone to live without the threat of Pol Pot genocidal regime.

Q: Vietnam has announced its foreign investment law for almost a year now. Are you satisfied with the level of foreign investment which amounted to about US\$300 million? What should be done to improve the current situation?

A: Only a year has elapsed since the publication of the Foreign Investment Law, there have been over 50 foreign investment projects in Vietnam. This is a modest but important starting-point, which proves that pursuing a policy of economic embargo and isolation means going counter to the interests of economic cooperation among nations.

We are making all-out effort to solve the problems of inflation, rate of exchange as well as to improve the systems of road transport, communication and services, etc, with a view to paving the way for more effective foreign investment in Vietnam.

Q: How do you describe Vietnam's ties with China? Is Chinese-Vietnamese normalization possible in the future?

A: The Vietnamese people and the Chinese people share a fundamental and long-term interest in peace and development which is of greater significance than the temporary differences that exist between the two countries for the time being.

Sooner or later, Sino-Vietnamese relations will certainly be normalized and that will serve the interests of both Vietnam and China, and those of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the region of Asia-Pacific as a whole.

Q: Is it true that Vietnam is prepared to negotiate with China to fix a deadline for pulling its troops out of Kampuchea before 1990?

A: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea have agreed on the settlement for the international aspect of the Kampuchean problem including a timetable for Vietnamese troop withdrawal to be linked with the ending of foreign military aid to the Kampuchean parties. On the basis of such an agreement, Vietnam is prepared to negotiate with China on the improvement of their bilateral relations and to discuss a settlement for the international aspect of the Kampuchean problem. The Chinese side has stated that a complete Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Kampuchea must be coupled by a complete end to all foreign countries' military aid to all Kampuchean parties. These two processes require effective international control. The spirit of this statement is in line with the conclusion reached by all Kampuchean parties and the other Southeast Asian countries at JIM I [Jakarta Informal Meeting I] in July 1988 in Jakarta.

Q: What kind of conditions should be met before Vietnam gives support to the peacekeeping force in Kampuchea?

A: Any form of international supervision and control must be decided by the Kampuchean parties themselves and cannot be an occupation force.

Any mechanism of international supervision and control must be placed under the sovereignty of Kampuchea.

The provisions of an agreement on Kampuchea must be signed and implemented by parties to the signature. The task of an international control organization is only to observe the implementation of the agreements and to report to the parties to the agreement on all the violations of the agreement.

The most important thing is that peace in Kampuchea must be guaranteed by all the Kampuchean parties themselves.

Q: What do you think the Second Jakarta Meeting to be held in February, 1989 will achieve?

A: The Second Informal Meeting in Jakarta [JIM II], scheduled in Feb 1989, will have to settle concrete terms of an agreement on Kampuchea. The international aspect of which must be settled by all the countries concerned while the internal aspect by the Kampuchean parties. [sentence as published] The forthcoming meeting is also expected to reach an agreement on the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

We are prepared, together with the PRK and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to cooperate closely with Indonesia, Thailand and the other ASEAN countries in order to ensure that an agreement would be reached on the above-mentioned issues at JIM II.

Q: What basic changes are taking place in Vietnam's army? Is there any possibility that Vietnam would cut its troops of estimated one million men?

A: It is our policy to build people's national defence, reducing troop strength to a sufficient level to serve the implementation of the two strategic tasks at present, that is to maintain peace and to develop our economy.

Q: Recently Vietnam agreed to take back (Vietnamese) refugees abroad. Thailand has urged Vietnam to take back thousands of refugees stranded there. Are you willing to welcome them, without any preconditions?

A: We have agreed with the UNHCR and countries concerned on a reasonable solution in conformity with international convention and practices with regard to voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese refugees.

We are prepared to welcome back Vietnamese refugees wishing to return home with the financial aid from UNHCR to help them quickly resettle in a normal life.

Q: Thailand has not yet accepted the Dien Bien Phu era refugees who have lived in Thailand's Northeastern region for four decades. What do you think would be the solution to this problem?

A: The best solution is to respond fairly to the legitimate wishes of these Vietnamese nationals in accordance with the spirit of humanitarianism, the friendly relations between the two countries and international convention and practices. It is necessary to reactivate effectively the joint Vietnamese-Thai committee for settlement of Vietnamese nationals set up in 1978.

Q: How many Vietnamese civilians have moved into Kampuchea from 1978-1988?

A: Most of Vietnamese civilians recently moving into Kampuchea are those who had lived there and then fled the country under Lon Nol and the genocidal Pol Pot regimes during the period from 1970 till 1978. The number of these people is far less than that before 1970.

Q: What are the priorities for your government in 1989?

A: We are undertaking profound and comprehensive renovation, first and foremost in the economic field, in order to free production forces, exploit all national potential. We have to abolish the bureaucratic, centralized system based on state subsidies and resolutely move to socialist cost-accounting system. The renovation process has produced initial modest results as shown in the system of prices. During the second half of 1988 the inflation rate has been slowed down to 8 percent per month from 18 percent per month in the first half of 1988. It is an encouraging sign for us. Food production is given priority in the next few years. In 1988 we produced 19 million [metric] tons, an increase of 1.5 million tons as compared with 1987. In 1989, we are trying to meet the target of 20 million tons so as to meet the minimum demand of food consumption for the whole country.

Q: Could you comment on a report that Vietnam may have developed nuclear weapons?

A: We confirm that Vietnam does not make nuclear weapons. We need to produce more food, consumer goods and products for export.

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